VISION IAS

Test -11

Governance in India

- Constitutional & Non Constitutional Bodies
- Elections and political parties: problems and processes
- Electoral politics
- Working of the political system since independence
- Governance
  - Good Governance, e-Governance
- Transparency & Accountability
  - RTI, Citizen's Charter & Anti Corruption
  - Civil Society, People participation
  - Reforms: Police Reform, Administrative Reform, Judicial Reform, Political Reform etc.
- Public Sector Management
- Public private partnerships (PPP)
- Rights Issues etc.
- Social Audit
- Public Policy: Making, Implementation, Evaluation and monitoring

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Current Affairs

(AUGUST 2021)

PT - 2022

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Test Booklet Series

C

TEST BOOKLET

GENERAL STUDIES (P) 2022 – Test – 3480

Time Allowed: Two Hours **Maximum Marks: 200**

INSTRUCTIONS

1. IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE EXAMINATION, YOU SHOULD CHECK THAT THIS BOOKLET DOES **NOT** HAVE ANY UNPRINTED OR TURN OR MISSING PAGES OR ITEMS, ETC. IF SO, GET IT REPLACED BY A COMPLETE TEST BOOKLET.

2. ENCODE CLEARLY THE TEST BOOKLET SERIES **A, B, C** OR **D** AS THE CASE MAY BE IN THE APPROPRIATE PLACE IN THE ANSWER SHEET.

3. You have to enter your Roll Number on the Test Booklet in the Box provided alongside. **Do NOT** write anything else on the Test Booklet.

4. This Test Booklet contains **100** items (Questions). Each item is printed in **English.** Each item comprises four responses (answers). You will select the response which you want to mark on the Answer Sheet. In case you feel that there is more than one correct response with you consider the best. In any case, choose **ONLY ONE** response for each item.

5. You have to mark all your responses ONLY on the separate Answer Sheet provided. See direction in the answers sheet.

6. All items carry equal marks. Attempt all items. Your total marks will depend only on the number of **correct responses** marked by you in the answer sheet. For **every incorrect** response **1/3rd of the allotted marks** will be deducted.

7. Before you proceed to mark in the Answer sheet the response to various items in the Test booklet, you have to fill in some particulars in the answer sheets as per instruction sent to you with your Admission Certificate.

8. After you have completed filling in all responses on the answer sheet and the examination has concluded, you should hand over to Invigilator only the answer sheet. You are permitted to take away with you the Test Booklet.

9. Sheet for rough work are appended in the Test Booklet at the end.

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1. Consider the following statements:

1. Ministry of Home Affairs is the nodal agency of the Government of India for administrative reforms in India.
2. The First Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC) was set up under the Chairmanship of Mr. Veerappa Moily.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

2. Consider the following statements about the rights and liabilities of the Union and States:

1. A state adjacent to ocean can not claim jurisdiction over all lands, minerals under the waters of the ocean within territorial waters of India.
2. The Government of the Union or Government of States are legal entities (juristic personalities) for the purpose of suits and proceedings.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

3. Which of the following statements are correct with reference to the conditions for Recognized State Party status in India?

1. If it secures two seats plus six percent vote share in the last Assembly election in that state.
2. If it gets three percent of the total Assembly seats or three seats, whichever is more.
3. If it secures eight percent state-wide vote share in either the last Lok Sabha or the last Assembly polls.

Select the correct answer using code given below.

(a) 1, 2 and 3

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 2 and 3 only

4. Sevottam is a generic framework for achieving excellence in public service delivery. Which of the following is/are the components under the Sevottam model?

1. Digital India
2. Citizen's Charter
3. Grievance Redressal Mechanism

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 2 and 3 only

(d) 3 only

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5. Consider the following statements with reference to suits against civil servants in India:

1. Under the Indian Constitution they are conferred personal immunity from legal liability for official contracts.
2. Criminal proceedings can be instituted against them for acts done in their official capacity, with the prior permission of the president or the governor.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

6. Global Youth Development Index recently seen in the news is released by:

(a) United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
(b) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
(c) World Bank
(d) Commonwealth Secretariat

7. Consider the following statements regarding the MCA21 initiative:

1. It is a flagship e-Governance initiative of the Government of India under the National e-Governance Plan (NeGP).
2. It is designed to fully automate all processes related to enforcement and compliance of the legal requirements under the Companies Act, 1956.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

8. Consider the following statements about the tribunals:

1. The original Constitution did not contain provisions with respect to tribunals.
2. Article 323A deals with establishment of tribunals for the adjudication of disputes relating to recruitment and service conditions of persons appointed to public services of the Centre only.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

9. Consider the following statements with reference to star campaigners in elections in India:

1. The Election Commission of India has the power to revoke the status of a star campaigner of a party.
2. As per revised guidelines, the list of the star campaigners has to be communicated to the returning officer within five days from the date of notification of an election.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

10. Recently the highest altitude herbal park of India, situated at a height of 11,000 feet, was inaugurated in which of the following states?

(a) Himachal Pradesh
(b) Arunachal Pradesh
(c) Uttarakhand
(d) Sikkim

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11. Consider the following statements about The Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP):

1. It is a loan assistance of the World Bank for rehabilitation and improvement of dam projects.
2. It is being implemented by Central Water Commission at Central Level.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

12. Consider the following statements with reference to the Reserved Constituencies under Article 332 of the Constitution:

1. Each state has reserved seats for Schedule Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) in Lok Sabha and Legislative Assembly, based on their proportion of the population across the country.
2. In a reserved constituency for SCs and STs, only someone who belongs to these categories can contest and vote in that election.
3. The highest number of reserved constituencies for Parliamentary and Assembly elections are in Madhya Pradesh followed by Uttar Pradesh.

Which of the statements given above is/are ***not*** correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

13. With reference to the Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Act, 2018, consider the following statements:

1. It states that offering a bribe is an offense.
2. It empowers the police officers to conduct speedy investigations without approval in all circumstances.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

14. Which of the following provisions regarding the Union Public Service Commission is mentioned in the Constitution of India?

1. The entire expenses of the commission are charged from the Consolidated Fund of India.
2. The constitution debars the chairman of the UPSC for further employment in the Government of India or state.
3. Selection by the UPSC does not confer any right to the post upon the candidate.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

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15. Consider the following:

1. To constitute a State Security Commission
2. To separate the investigation and law and order functions of the police
3. To set up a Police Complaints Authority (PCA) at the national level

Which of the provisions given above was/were part of the seven directives issued by the Supreme Court in the famous Prakash Singh Case?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

16. Which of the following statements are correct in relation to the Delimitation Process of India?

1. Delimitation ensures that weight or value of a vote is similar for each vote polled.
2. The validity of any law relating to the delimitation of constituencies or the allotment of seats to such constituencies of panchayats shall not be called in question in any Court.
3. Representation of People Act, 1950, confers on the President the power to delimit after consultation with the Election Commission of India.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

(a) 1, 2 and 3
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 2 and 3 only

17. Which of the following are the members of the recommendatory committee responsible for the appointment of the Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation?

1. Leader of Opposition of Rajya Sabha
2. Chief Justice of India
3. Prime Minister
4. Union Minister of Home affairs
5. Leader of Opposition of the Lok Sabha.

Select the correct answer from the code given below.

(a) 2, 3 and 5 only
(b) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5
(c) 3, 4 and 5 only
(d) 1, 2 and 4 only

18. The Co-operative society is mentioned in which of the following parts of the Indian Constitution?

1. Part III
2. Part IV
3. Part IX A
4. Part IX B

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

(a) 3 and 4 only
(b) 4 only
(c) 1, 2 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

19. Which of the following statements is/are correct about the National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP)?

1. It comprises the brownfield infrastructure projects only.
2. It will run co-terminus with the National Infrastructure Pipeline.
3. Roads and railways assets will comprise over 50% of the total estimated value of the assets to be monetised.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

(a) 1 and 3 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

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20. Consider the following statements with regards to the Competition Commission of India (CCI):

1. It was established on the recommendations of the 2nd Administrative Reforms Commission.
2. It is a quasi-judicial body that aims to establish a robust competitive environment.
3. It has replaced the Competition Appellate Tribunal (COMPAT).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

21. Consider the following statements with respect to the Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities:

1. The original constitution did not make any provision with respect to the Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities.
2. At the central level, the Commissioner falls under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

22. Which of the following are the various roles played by civil societies in India?

1. Service providers
2. Watchdogs of Human Rights
3. Participation in Governance
4. Forming Labor Unions
5. Community-based monitoring

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

(a) 1 and 3 only
(b) 2 and 4 only
(c) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

23. In the context of cultural history of India, *Madhurkathi* a GI tagged product is a/an:

(a) bamboo stick used during tribal dances in north-eastern parts of India.
(b) floor mats made of natural fibres unique to West Bengal.
(c) type of textile embroidery done on sarees in Odisha.
(d) hand-woven carpet unique to Kashmir.

24. In which of the following judgments, the court ruled that the time, scope, and extent of an audit are all matters which fall within the jurisdiction of CAG?

(a) Arvind Gupta v/s Union of India
(b) Raghu Nath Kelkar v/s Union of India
(c) National Dairy Development Boards v/s CAG of India
(d) I.R. Coelho vs State of Tamil Nadu

25. With reference to Internet Governance Forum (IGF), consider the following statements:

1. It is a global multi-stakeholder platform that facilitates decisions on public policy issues pertaining to the internet.
2. It is a United Nations-based forum.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 and 2

26. Recently, the Halam Tribe was seen in the news. They belong to which state/UT?

(a) Ladakh
(b) Tripura
(c) Nagaland
(d) Meghalaya

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27. Consider the following statements regarding Joint State Public Service Commission (JSPSC):

1. It is created by an act of parliament at the request of the concerned state legislatures.
2. The annual performance report of the Joint Public Service Commission is placed before the Houses of Parliament by the President.
3. The chairman and members of the commission may resign from their office by submitting their resignation letters to the concerned State Governors.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

28. Which of the following statements is correct about the official language of the States?

(a) The Constitution specifies official languages of different states.
(b) Only languages mentioned in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution can be adopted as official language of a state.
(c) A State having more than one official language, must recognise English as well.
(d) The President can direct State Government for officially recognising a language, if that language speaking population of the state demand for its recognition.

29. Which of the following are considered as the characteristics of Good Governance?

1. Rule of law
2. Accountability
3. Responsiveness
4. Transparency

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1, 2 and 3 only
(c) 3 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

30. Which of the following statements is ***not*** correct with respect to the Union Public Service Commission?

(a) The recommendations made by UPSC are only of advisory nature and not binding on the government
(b) Government can make rules to regulate the scope of the advisory functions of the UPSC
(c) All cases of non-acceptance of recommendations by UPSC must be approved by the Public Accounts Committee of the Parliament
(d) The President can exclude posts, services and matters from the purview of the UPSC

31. With respect to the Public-Private Partnership, consider the following statements regarding Hybrid Annuity Model:

1. Initially, more than 50 percent of the project cost has to be borne by the concessionaire under this model.
2. Project cost is inflation-indexed under this model.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

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32. Constitution has provided various rights and safeguards to women. In this context, which of the following articles deal with the rights and safeguards of women?

1. Article 15
2. Article 16
3. Article 243-D

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

33. With reference to the Law Commission of India, consider the following statements:

1. The Law Commission of India is a statutory body.
2. Law Commission of India is constituted for a period of 3 years.
3. It submits its report to the President of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

34. Election Commission has been functioning as a multi-member body consisting of three election commissioners. In this context, consider the following statements:

1. The Chief Election Commissioner has a casting vote in case of any deadlock amongst the members of the Commission.
2. Regional Commissioners are removed from office on the recommendation of the Chief Election Commissioner.
3. All Election commissioners of the Commission are appointed by the President.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 2 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 3 only
(d) 2 and 3 only

35. Arrange the following bodies in the chronological order of their establishment:

1. National Investigation Agency
2. National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights
3. NITI Aayog

Select the correct answer from the code given below.

(a) 1-2-3
(b) 2-3-1
(c) 2-1-3
(d) 1-3-2

36. Which of the following is ***not*** provided for by the Representation of People Act, 1950?

(a) Registration of political parties
(b) Allocation of seats in the House of the People
(c) Preparation of electoral rolls
(d) Registration of electors

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37. Consider the following statements regarding Anti defection law:

1. The 52nd amendment act provided for the disqualification of the members of parliament and the state legislatures on the ground of defection.
2. The disqualification in case of split by the one-third members of the legislative party has protected under this law.
3. Any question regarding disqualification arising out of defection is to be decided by the presiding officer of the house.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

38. Consider the following statements with reference to social audit in India:

1. Mizoram became the first state in India to pass social audit legislation.
2. Social Audit has been made mandatory under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), 2005.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

39. In the context of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), consider the following statements:

1. The recommendations of NHRC are binding on the concerned government or authority.
2. The Chairman of the National Commission for Women is an ex-officio member of the NHRC.
3. It cannot inquire into a matter of violation of human rights after the expiry of one year from its occurrence.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 2 and 3 only
(b) 1 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 2 only

40. Consider the following statements regarding National Medical Commission:

1. It is a statutory body.
2. Its chairperson is the Minister of Health and Family Welfare.
3. It regulates both the standards of medical education and lays down policies for regulating medical institutions.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1 and 2 only

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41. Who is entitled to vote through Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot System (ETPBS)?

1. Individuals working in central forces under the arms act.
2. Wife of a service voter who ordinarily resides with him.
3. Government officials deployed in embassies outside the country.
4. Government staff on poll duty who are outside their constituencies.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

(a) 2 and 3 only
(b) 1 and 4 only
(c) 1, 2, 3 and 4
(d) 1, 2 and 3 only

42. With reference to the Central Vigilance Commission, consider the following statements:

1. It is not mandated to investigate on its own and gets it done by the Central Bureau of Investigation.
2. After retirement the Chairperson of the CVC is not eligible for further employment under a State government.
3. It works under the aegis of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 2 only

43. For the first time, recently the Rubber Board started a nationwide census on rubber. With reference to rubber cultivation in India, consider the following statements:

1. India is the largest producer of natural rubber.
2. Kerala contributes the largest share in rubber cultivation.
3. 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the plantations of rubber is allowed.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

44. Consider the following statements regarding Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules 2021:

1. Significant Social Media Intermediary (SSMI) is defined as a social media intermediary whose number of registered users in India is more than 50 million.
2. All social media intermediaries have to appoint a Chief Compliance Officer for ensuring compliance with the rules.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

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45. With reference to the National Commission for Women, consider the following statements:

1. The National Commission for Women is a statutory body.
2. The Minister of Women and Child development is the ex-officio chairperson of the commission.
3. The commission has the power to penalize an individual as a Civil Court under the Code of Civil Procedure.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 2 only
(b) 1 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1 and 3 only

46. Consider the following statements regarding National Education Policy 2020:

1. It brings children between 3-6 years of age under the school curriculum.
2. It aims to achieve a 100% Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) from preschool to secondary level by 2030.
3. It restructures school curriculum and pedagogy into a new 5+3+4 format, comprising 5 years of primary school, 3 years of upper primary school and 4 years of Intermediate school.
4. It aims to phase out three languages formula gradually to reduce the burden on the pupil.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 3 and 4 only
(c) 1, 2 and 3 only
(d) 2 and 3 only

47. Consider the following statements with reference to the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India:

1. The Comptroller and Auditor-General of India take the same oath or affirmation as to be made by the Judges of the Supreme court.
2. He is not eligible for further office either under the government of India or the government of any state after it has ceased to hold its office.
3. The accounts of the District and Regional Councils of tribal areas under the sixth schedule are not audited in the manner prescribed by Comptroller and Auditor General.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

48. With reference to the recently launched SAMRIDH Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It is being implemented by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
2. It aims to boost the startup ecosystem in the country by providing startups with mentorship and funding.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

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49. Recently, which of the following big tech companies launched the programme "Small Business Loans Initiative" to help Small and Medium businesses?

(a) Microsoft
(b) Google
(c) Facebook
(d) Apple Inc

50. Recently Sunil Sethi Committee was seen in the news, it was formed with the objective of?

(a) To identify the risks in the Indian banking and finance industry.
(b) To recommend measures to improve the condition of Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFCs) in India.
(c) To identify risks and threats in the steel sector and to recommend measures to boost production.
(d) To double the production and quadrupling the exports of handlooms in a span of 3 years.

51. Which of the following actions fall within the jurisdiction of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG)?

1. Ascertains and certifies the net proceeds of any tax or duty
2. Issue money from the consolidated fund to various departments
3. Approve the withdrawal of money by the executive from the public exchequer

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 only
(d) 2 and 3 only

52. Which one of the following statements correctly describes Operation Devi Shakti, recently seen in the news?

(a) It is a counter insurgency operation in the North Eastern region.
(b) It is a programme which aims to make functioning of power distribution companies (DISCOMS) more efficient.
(c) It is India's mission to evacuate its citizens from Afghanistan.
(d) It is a project under which state of the art ships are being built for the Coast Guards.

53. "In 2000, the Government of India formed a committee headed by the former Chief Justice of Kerala and Karnataka to suggest an overhaul of the century-old criminal justice system. The Committee in its recommendations felt that the existing system weighed in favor of the accused and did not adequately focus on justice to the victims of crime".

Which of the following committees has been referred to in the above passage?

(a) K. Padmanabhaiah committee
(b) V. S. Malimath Committee
(c) Dharam Vir Committee
(d) Gore Committee

54. Arrange the following committees in the chronological order of their formation.

1. Balwant Rai Mehta Committee on panchayati raj system
2. K. Santhanam Committee on Prevention of Corruption
3. Dinesh Goswami on Electoral Reforms

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

(a) 1-3-2
(b) 3-2-1
(c) 3-1-2
(d) 1-2-3

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55. Consider the following statements about the National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution:

1. It was established by an act of Parliament.
2. It was headed by M.N. Venkatachaliah.
3. Its main function was to rewrite the Constitution again.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 3 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1 and 2 only

56. Which of the following statements is/are correct with reference to the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968:

1. An unrecognized party can retain a symbol for six years even after losing the status of a recognized National or State party.
2. A recognized state party always gets its reserved symbol to contest elections in other state(s).

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

57. With reference to Water Plus City Certification, consider the following statements:

1. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Jal Shakti to ensure 100% tap water connection for households.
2. Indore has become India's first Water Plus Certified City.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 and 2

58. Which among the following are the mechanisms for citizens' participation in the governance process?

1. Right to Information
2. Grievance Redressal Mechanism
3. Social Audit
4. Centralized Planning

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

(a) 1, 3 and 4 only
(b) 2 and 4 only
(c) 1, 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

59. In the context of the institution of Lokpal of India, consider the following statements:

1. The salary, allowances, and other conditions of services of the Chairperson of the Lokpal are the same as that of the Chief Justice of India.
2. The expenses of the Lokpal are charged upon the Consolidated Fund of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

60. Consider the following statements with reference to the National Statistical Commission:

1. It is a statutory body which was set up on the recommendations of the Rangarajan Commission.
2. The suggestions of the commission are binding on the government.
3. Chief Statistician of India is the ex-officio chairman of the commission.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) None

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61. With respect to co-operative societies, recently the Supreme Court of India has declared some provisions of 97th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2011 as *ultra vires*. On what ground it was declared *ultra vires*?

(a) The above mentioned Constitutional Amendment Act was not ratified by the State legislatures as required by the Constitution.
(b) Only a State Legislature can make law on co-operative societies.
(c) The act was passed without discussion and deliberations in the Parliament.
(d) None of the above

62. With reference to the Bar Council of India, consider the following statements:

1. It is established under the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996.
2. The Solicitor General of India is the ex officio member of the Bar Council of India.
3. It is responsible for setting standards of legal education in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 2 and 3 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 2 only
(d) 3 only

63. Consider the following statements with respect to the system of elections in India:

1. No by-elections can be held if the duration of the remaining term is less than 1 year.
2. By-elections can be also conducted if two candidates get the same number of votes.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

64. In order to avoid any complication and conflict of duty, Attorney General is required to seek permission from the Government of India in which of the following situations?

1. Defend an Accused person in criminal prosecutions
2. Appointment as a director in any company or corporation
3. Private legal practice

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

65. Consider the following statements regarding the First Past the Post (FPTP) electoral system:

1. The winning candidate requires relative majority of the total votes polled to get elected.
2. In India, no government at the centre has ever crossed the 50% mark to claim the absolute majority of the voters.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

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66. Consider the following pairs:

Constitutional Amendment Act		*Effect*
1. 61st Constitutional Amendment Act	:	Voting age reduced to 18 years from 21 years.
2. 69th Constitutional Amendment Act	:	Legislative Assembly for the National Capital Territory of Delhi formed
3. 84th Constitutional Amendment Act	:	Delimitation of constituencies based on 2001 census

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1, 2 and 3
(d) 1 and 3 only

67. With reference to the State finance commission, Consider the following statements:

1. The governor of the state constitutes a finance commission to review the financial position of the panchayats.
2. The constitution provides for the composition of the commission, and the manner of their selection.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 and 2

68. With reference to the Central Information Commission (CIC), consider the following statements:

1. It has the power to impose penalties on the Central Public Information Officer of a public authority.
2. It is a constitutional body.
3. The Commission can order an enquiry on a matter of concern on suo moto basis.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 3 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1 only

69. Consider the following statements regarding Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs):

1. An EVM can record a maximum of 10,000 votes.
2. Provision for use of EVMs is provided under Representation of People Act, 1951.
3. Only Bharat Electronic Ltd can manufacture EVMs in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 2 and 3 only

70. With reference to the Right to Information (Amendment) Act, 2019, consider the following statements:

1. It states that the salary of the Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) will be equivalent to the salary paid to the Chief Election Commissioner.
2. It states that the Central Government will notify the term of office CIC.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

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71. Which of the following statements is ***not*** correct about the Foreigners Tribunals?

(a) The district magistrates in all States and Union Territories are empowered to set up foreigners tribunals.
(b) They have power equivalent to that of a Civil Court.
(c) They were established under Article 323-B of the Indian Constitution.
(d) The power to declare a person as foreigner lies with these tribunals only.

72. Consider the following statements with respect to 'Ubharte Sitaare Fund', recently seen in news:

1. The fund has been set up by Exim Bank and SIDBI.
2. The fund is invested in export oriented small and mid sized companies by way of equity.
3. The fund has a corpus of Rs. 5000 crores.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

73. Which of the following is/are essential components of the National e-Governance Plan (NeGP) of the Government of India?

1. Common Service Centres
2. Mission Mode Projects
3. State Wide Area Networks

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

74. Consider the following statements regarding the Common Services Centres Scheme:

1. It is an initiative of the Reserve Bank of India to provide access points for the delivery of various electronic services to villages in India.
2. It is implemented by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

75. Consider the following pairs:

Amendment		***Subject matter***
1. 52nd Constitutional Amendment Act	:	Anti Defection
2. 103rd Constitutional Amendment Act	:	Establishment of National Commission for Backward Classes
3. 1st Constitutional Amendment Act	:	Addition of the Ninth Schedule in the Constitution

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

(a) 2 and 3 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 3 only

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76. In the context of changing Indian political scenario post Independence, arrange the following events chronologically:

1. Sikkim became the 22nd State of India.
2. Establishment of the Mandal Commission on the Socially and Educationally backward classes.
3. Abolition of the Privy Purses.

Select the correct answer from the code given below.

(a) 3-1-2
(b) 3-2-1
(c) 2-1-3
(d) 1-2-3

77. Consider the following statements with regards to the Telecom Disputes Settlement Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT):

1. It is a statutory body established under the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act.
2. The Chairperson can be a serving or retired Judge of the Supreme court or retired Chief Justice of the High Court.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

78. Project REPLAN (REducing PLAstic from Nature), sometimes seen in news, is an initiative of which of the following bodies?

(a) NITI Aayog
(b) Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)
(c) International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
(d) The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)

79. With reference to elections for state legislative assemblies in India, consider the following statements with reference to the election petitions:

1. An election petition can be tried only by the High Court of the state involved.
2. An election petition can be submitted by any candidate or elector within 45 days of the declaration of the result.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

80. With reference to the Official Languages Act, 1963, consider the following statements:

1. Every Bill introduced in the Parliament is to accompanied by a Hindi translation.
2. It provides the English language along with the Hindi for the official purposes of the Union.
3. English should be used for purpose of communication between the Union and the non-Hindi states.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1, 2 and 3
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 2 only
(d) 1 and 3 only

81. Recently the "Tightening the Net" report was seen in the news, consider the following statements with reference to it:

1. It ranks countries on the basis of measures taken against tax evasion.
2. It was published by Oxfam.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 and 2

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82. Which of the following are the advantages of e-Governance?

1. Better access to information and quality services for citizen
2. Accountability in the Government
3. Expanded reach of governance

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

83. Consider the following statements with respect to e-RUPI, a digitial payment instrument launched by the Union Government:

1. It is a digital voucher which a beneficiary gets on his/her phone in the form of an SMS or QR Code.
2. Users need to have a bank account to redeem the voucher.
3. The e-RUPI was developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

84. With regards to the Data Security Council of India (DSCI), consider the following statements:

1. It has been established by the National Cyber Crime training Centre (NCTC) in association with Cert In.
2. It endeavours to increase India's share in the global security product and services market.
3. It includes stakeholders from Industries and Academia to strengthen the security and privacy culture.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

85. The accountability of the executive to the Parliament in the spheres of financial administration is secured through audit reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India. In this context, consider the following pairs:

Type of Audit		***Concerned With***
1. Compliance audit	:	Promoting economical and efficient governance
2. Financial audit	:	Comparison of Budget and Actual amounts
3. Performance audit	:	Regularity and Propriety

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

(a) 2 and 3 only
(b) 1 only
(c) 2 only
(d) None

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86. With reference to the recently launched interest loan subvention scheme for energy biomethanation projects, consider the following statements:

1. It will provide financial assistance to innovative waste to energy biomethanation projects and business models.
2. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
3. The scheme will be funded by Global Environment Facility (GEF) fund.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

87. Consider the following statements regarding the eligibility criteria of Maharatna status given to CPSEs:

1. The average annual turnover of the CPSE should be more than Rs. 25,000 crore during the last 3 years
2. The CPSE should have a significant global presence/international operations.
3. The CPSE should pay dividends to the government regularly.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

88. In which of the following matters, the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes has all the powers of a civil court trying a suit?

1. Summoning and enforcing the attendance of any person from any part of India
2. Receiving evidence on affidavits
3. Requiring the discovery and production of any document
4. Requisitioning any public record from any court or office

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 3 and 4 only
(c) 1, 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

89. Consider the following statements regarding Electoral Bonds:

1. Political parties are exempted from informing the Election Commission of any amount received above Rs 2,000 if made through electoral bonds.
2. Any foreign company registered in India can buy electoral bonds.
3. The State Bank of India is the only bank authorized to sell electoral bonds.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 1, 2 and 3
(d) 2 and 3 only

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90. Which of the following statements is correct with respect to the Advocate General of the State?

(a) Advocate General must be a person who is qualified to be appointed a judge of the Supreme Court.

(b) The procedure and grounds for his removal are mentioned in the constitution.

(c) The term of office of the Advocate General is not fixed by the Constitution.

(d) Advocate General may quit office by submitting the resignation to the President.

91. Consider the following statements about the Visceral leishmaniasis disease also known as Kala-Azar:

1. It is caused by protozoan parasites.
2. It affects internal organs particularly spleen and liver.
3. It is associated with high fatality.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

92. Recently Union Government launched the 'PM-DAKSH' portal with the objective of

(a) making the skill development schemes accessible to the Scheduled Castes, Backward Classes and Safai Karamcharis.

(b) addressing common man's grievances and simultaneously monitoring programmes of the Union Government.

(c) achieving the target of child labour free society by collaborating with civil society.

(d) providing one stop solution to MSMEs to resolve their grievances and to assist smaller units financially.

93. Consider the following pairs:

Post		***Appointing authority***
1. State Chief Information Commissioner	:	Governor
2. Central Vigilance Commissioner	:	Prime Minister
3. Chairperson of Lokpal	:	President

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

(a) 2 and 3 only

(b) 1 only

(c) 1, 2 and 3

(d) 1 and 3 only

94. Consider the following statements with reference to the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions:

1. The Chairman of the commission should have been a judge of the Supreme Court of India.
2. The decision of the commission with respect to the affiliation of a minority institution's affiliation to a university is final.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

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95. Consider the following statements with reference to the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT):

1. It exercises original jurisdiction in relation to recruitment and all service matters of public servants.
2. The members of the defence forces, officers and servants of the Supreme Court and the secretarial staff of the Parliament are not covered by it.
3. It is not bound by the procedure laid down in the Civil Procedure Code.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 1, 2 and 3
(d) 3 only

96. Which of the following matters are handled by the Union Public Service Commission?

1. Recruitment to Group A and Group B services.
2. Cadre management of the All India Services.
3. Salaries and Service conditions of the Central Services.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

(a) 1, 2 and 3
(b) 2 only
(c) 1 only
(d) 1 and 3 only

97. NITI Aayog was established as the successor to the erstwhile Planning Commission. In the context of NITI Aayog consider the following statements:

1. NITI Aayog is an extra-constitutional body created by a parliamentary resolution.
2. The President of India is the Chairperson of the NITI Aayog Governing Council.
3. The Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO), Government of India is an attached office under NITI Aayog.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 2 only
(b) 3 only
(c) 1, 2 and 3
(d) 1 only

98. Which of the following statements best describes the Doctrine of Eminent Domain?

(a) It is pertaining to the power of the sovereign to acquire property of an individual for public use without the necessity of his/her consent.
(b) It enables and regulates the appropriation of property in India owned by Pakistani nationals or any other enemy property.
(c) It lays down that if any contract entered into by the Government on behalf of the President, is beyond the powers vested in the President will be considered null and void.
(d) According to this doctrine, a public authority can be made accountable in lieu of a legitimate expectation.

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99. Consider the following statements regarding the Consumer Protection Act 2019 :

1. It provides for consumer disputes redressal commissions at national, state, and district levels.
2. It stipulates the threshold of pecuniary jurisdiction of the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission to above 100 crores.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

100. Consider the following statements with reference to the Registration of Political Parties in India:

1. Representation of People Act, 1951 provides for the registration of Political Parties in India.
2. Election Commission of India has the power to register and deregister a political party.
3. A party seeking registration as a political party has to submit an application to the Election Commission within a period of 30 days from the date of its formation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 3 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 2 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

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Q 1.D

- The **Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances** under the **Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions** is the **nodal agency of the Government of India for administrative reforms** as well as redressal of public grievances relating to the states in general and those pertaining to Central Government agencies in particular. **Hence statement 1 is not correct**.
  - The Department endeavors to document and disseminate successful good governance practices by way of audio-visual media and publications. The Department also undertakes activities in the field of international exchange and cooperation to promote public service reforms.
- **The 2nd Administrative Reform Commission (ARC)** was constituted in **2005** to suggest measures for various governance-related issues and it finished its term in **2009**. The 2nd ARC was initially set up under the Chairmanship of **Mr. Veerappa Moily**, who resigned with effect from 1st April 2009. He is succeeded by **V. Ramachandran**. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
- The first ARC was established on 5 January 1966. The Administrative Reforms Commission was initially chaired by Morarji Desai, and later on K. Hanumanthaiah became its chairman when Desai became the Deputy Prime Minister of India.

Q 2.A

- Articles 294 to 300 in Part XII of the Constitution deal with the property, contracts, rights, liabilities, obligations and suits of the Union and the states. In this regard, the Constitution makes the Union or the states as juristic (legal) persons.
- Article 297 states that all lands, minerals and other things of value under the waters of the ocean within the territorial waters of India, the continental shelf of India and the exclusive economic zone of India vests in the Union. **Hence, a state near the ocean cannot claim jurisdiction over these things. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
  - India's **territorial waters** extend to a distance of 12 nautical miles from the appropriate base line. Similarly, India's **exclusive economic zone** extends upto 200 nautical miles.
- Article 300 of the Constitution deals with the suits by or against the Government in India. It lays down that the **Government of India** may sue or be sued by the name of the **Union of India** and government of a state may sue or **be sued by the name of that state,** eg, State of Andhra Pradesh or State of Uttar Pradesh and so on. Thus, the Union of India and states are legal entities (juristic personalities) for purposes of suits and proceedings, not the Government of the Union or Government of States. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**

Q 3.A

- For recognition as a state party, any one of five conditions needs to be satisfied. These are specified under paragraph 6A of the Order:
  - two seats plus a 6% vote share in the last Assembly election in that state; **Hence, statement 1 is correct** or
  - one seat plus a 6% vote share in the last Lok Sabha election from that state; or
  - 3% of the total Assembly seats or 3 seats, whichever is more; **Hence, statement 2 is correct** or
  - one of every 25 Lok Sabha seats (or an equivalent fraction) from a state; or
  - an 8% state-wide vote share in either the last Lok Sabha or the last Assembly polls **,** this condition was added in 2011. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

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Q 4.C

- **Sevottam** is a generic framework for achieving excellence in public service delivery.
- It is an assessment-improvement model that has been developed with the objective of improving the quality of public service delivery in the country. The model was conceived by the Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG), Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances, and Pensions in 2006.
- The word "Sevottam" is a combination of two Hindi words: Seva (Service) and Uttam (Excellent). It means "Service Excellence", emphasizing the idea of "Service". It symbolizes the change in mindset within the Government, from administration and control to service and enablement.
- Sevottam comprises 3 modules namely,
  - **Citizen's Charter,**
  - **Grievance Redressal Mechanism and**
  - **Capability Building for Service Delivery.**
- As part of the Strategic Plan for Capability Building towards implementing Sevottam Quality Management System, a Scheme for Strengthening of State ATIs/CTIs has been implemented during the 12th Five Year Plan 2012-2017 in Training Institutions in 10 States.
- **Hence option (c) is the correct answer.**

Q 5.C

- **Under the Constitution, the civil servants are conferred personal immunity from legal liability for official contracts**. This means that the civil servant who made a contract in his official capacity is not personally liable in respect of that contract but it is the government (Central or state) that is liable for the contract. But, if the contract is made without complying the conditions specified in the Constitution, then the civil servant who made the contract is personally liable. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- The civil servants also enjoy immunity from legal liability for their tortious acts in respect of the sovereign functions of the government. In other cases, the liability of the civil servants for torts or illegal acts is the same as of any ordinary citizen.
- Civil proceedings can be instituted against them for anything done in their official capacity after giving a two months' advance notice. But, no such notice is required when the action is to be brought against them for the acts done outside the scope of their official duties. **Criminal proceedings can be instituted against them for acts done in their official capacity, with the prior permission of the president or the governor, where necessary.**
- Criminal Procedure Code says—where a public servant who is not removable from his office save by or with the sanction of the Central or state government is accused of an offence, committed by him while acting or purporting to act in the discharge of his official duty, no court can take cognizance of such offence without the previous sanction of the Central government or the state government, as the case may be. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

Q 6.D

- **Recent Context: India is ranked 122nd on a new Global Youth Development Index measuring the condition of young people across 181 countries, released by the Commonwealth Secretariat in London.**
- The triennial rankings of youth development found India among the top five risers on the index between 2010 and 2018. **The top five risers from 2010 to 2018 were Afghanistan, India, Russia, Ethiopia and Burkina Faso.** Singapore ranked first. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- The index ranks countries between 0.00 (lowest) and 1.00 (highest) according to the developments in youth education, employment, health, equality and inclusion, peace and security, and political and civic participation. **It looks at 27 indicators including literacy and voting to showcase the state of the world's 1.8 billion people between the age of 15 and 29.**
- Overall, the index shows advances in youth's participation in peace processes and their education, employment, inclusion and health care since 2010.
- **Hence option (d) is the correct answer.**

Q 7.C

- As part of the Government's commitment to governance reforms, the MCA21 program has been designated as the flagship e-Governance initiative of the Government of India under the **National e-Governance Plan (NeGP). Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- This outcome-based program from the Ministry of Company Affairs (MCA) aims at fulfilling the aspirations of its stakeholders in the 21st century through the adoption of a service-centric approach.

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- The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), Government of India, has initiated the MCA21 project, which enables easy and secure access to MCA services in an assisted manner for **corporate entities, professionals, and the general public.**
- The MCA21project is designed to fully automate all processes related to enforcement and compliance of the legal requirements under the **Companies Act, 1956. Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- The project further seeks to achieve inter-operability with the National e-Governance Services Delivery Gateway (NSDG), which will help extend MCA services to businesses via multiple front-end delivery channels, and which will also help provide other value-added services over and above the base services offered by MCA21.

Q 8.A

- The original Constitution did not contain provisions with respect to tribunals. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- The 42nd Amendment Act of 1976 added a new **Part XIV-A** to the Constitution. This part is entitled as 'Tribunals' and consists of only two Articles—
  - Article 323 A dealing with administrative tribunals and
  - Article 323 B dealing with tribunals for other matters.
- Article 323 A empowers the Parliament to provide for the establishment of **administrative tribunals** for the **adjudication of disputes relating to recruitment and conditions of service of persons** appointed to public services of the Centre, the states, local bodies, public corporations and other public authorities. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
- Article 323 A enables the Parliament to take out the adjudication of disputes relating to service matters from the civil courts and the high courts and place it before the administrative tribunals.
  - In pursuance of Article 323 A, the Parliament has passed the Administrative Tribunals Act in 1985.

Q 9.D

- The Supreme Court stayed the Election Commission's order of revoking the star campaigner status of a person in the recently concluded Madhya Pradesh state assembly elections, observing the poll body "has no power" to decide who is a star campaigner. **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- A recognized political party can have forty (40) star campaigners and an unrecognized (but registered) political party can have 20. As per the revised guidelines due to the pandemic, the maximum limit on the number of star campaigners for recognized National/State political parties shall be **30 in place of 40,** and for unrecognized registered political parties it **shall be 15 in place of 20 during the period of the pandemic.**
- The list of the star campaigners has to be **communicated to the Chief Electoral Officer and Election Commission** within a week from the date of notification of an election. As per the revised guidelines due to the pandemic, the period of submission of the list of star campaigners **is extended from 7 days to 10 days from the date of notification.** Political parties, which have already submitted a list of star campaigners shall resubmit a revised list within the stipulated period. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

Q 10.C

- **Recent Context: The highest altitude herbal park of India, situated at a height of 11,000 feet, was inaugurated at Mana village close to the Indo-China border in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district**. The main aim of this high altitude herbal park is to conserve various medicinally and culturally important alpine species and to do research on their propagation and habitat ecology.
- **The herbal park has around 40 species found in high altitude alpine areas in the Indian Himalayan region.** Many of these species are endangered and threatened as per International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) red list as well as by the State Biodiversity Board. It includes many important medicinal herbs also.
- The park has been **developed under the Central Government's Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) scheme.**
- **Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.**

Q 11.C

- **Recent Context: The Government of India signed a $250 million loan agreement with World Bank for the Second Phase of Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP Phase II) to make existing dams and communities safe and resilient across India. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- The Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) has been taken up in **April 2012 with loan assistance of the World Bank** for rehabilitation and improvement of about 223 dam Projects initially

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in **seven States** (namely Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, and Uttarakhand) and institutional strengthening and project management in Central Water Commission (CWC) and other Implementing Agencies. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**

- The **objective** was to improve the safety and operational performance of selected existing dams along with dam safety institutional strengthening with a system wide management approach.
- The Implementation Agencies for DRIP are **Water Resources Departments** and **State Electricity Boards** in the **participating States and Central Water Commission at Central Level. Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- **The first phase** of the DRIP programme, which covered 223 dams in 7 states, has been recently **closed in March 2021**.
- **DRIP Phase-II:**
  - Based on the success of DRIP, the Ministry of Jal Shakti initiated another externally funded Scheme DRIP Phase II and Phase III. The scheme was approved in October 2020.
  - This Scheme is especially focused on mitigating the risks of dam failure and ensuring safety of people, riverine ecology and property located downstream of these selected dams, through structural as well as non-structural measures like physical rehabilitation, preparation of Operation and Maintenance Manuals, Emergency Action Plans, Early Warning System and various other measures.
  - The Scheme has the **participation of 19 States and 3 Central Agencies**. The Budget Outlay for both Phases is Rs 10,211 Cr for an implementation period of 10 years. The Scheme will be implemented in two Phases, each of six years' duration, with two years' overlap.
  - The Phase II of the Scheme is being **co-financed by two multilateral funding Agencies - World Bank and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank** (AIIB), with funding of US$ 250 million each.

Q 12.D

- According to **Article 332 of the Constitution**, each state had reserved a number of constituencies for the Lok Sabha and state Legislative Assembly for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) **based on their proportion of the population of the state. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- In a SC and ST reserved constituency only someone who belongs to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes can stand for election, however, the Indian Constitution does not provide for separate electorate. All voters, including non-SC, non-ST community voters, have the right to vote for these candidates belonging to SC or ST candidate, if contesting from their constituency. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- As per the order issued by the Delimitation Commission in 2008, 412 are general, 84 seats are reserved for Scheduled Castes and 47 seats for the Scheduled Tribes. Of the total number of reserved seats, Uttar Pradesh has the highest share of 17 seats (all SCs reserved seats), followed by West Bengal with 12 seats (10 SCs and 2 STs reserved seats). **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

Q 13.A

- The Amendment Act makes **giving bribes is a specific and direct offence. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- Those convicted of taking bribes can be imprisoned for three to seven years besides being fined.
- Bribe-givers have also been included in the legislation for the first time and they can be punished with imprisonment for up to seven years, a fine or both.
- It makes a provision for providing protection to 'coerced' (forced to pay a bribe) bribe-givers if the matter is reported to the concerned law enforcement agencies within a week.
- It redefines **criminal misconduct** and will now only cover **misappropriation of property and possession of disproportionate assets.**
- The Act has decreased the number of offences of criminal misconduct from **five to two.**
- **The amendment act states that prior approval of the relevant government or competent authority should be taken before a police officer conducts an investigation into an offence alleged to have been committed by a public servant.** And such approval would not be necessary in cases that involve the arrest of a person on the spot on the charge of taking a bribe. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**

Q 14.A

- The Constitution has made the following provisions to safeguard and ensure the independent and impartial functioning of the UPSC-
- The **chairman or members of the UPSC can be removed by the President** only in the manner and on the grounds as mentioned in the constitution. Therefore, they enjoy the security of tenure.

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- The conditions of the service of the chairman or the member are determined by the president but **cannot be varied to his disadvantage** after his appointment.
- **The entire expenses of the chairman and members of the UPSC including salaries, allowances and pensions are charged on the consolidated fund of India. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- **The chairman of the UPSC on ceasing to hold office is not eligible for further employment in the Government of India or state. Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- The Supreme Court held that if the government fails to consult UPSC then the aggrieved public servant has no remedy in a court. Therefore, consultation with SPC is discretionary and not mandatory.
- **Moreover, the SC held that the selection by UPSC does not confer any right to post upon the candidate. It is ruled by Supreme Court and not mentioned in the constitution. Hence statement 3 is not correct.**
- However, the government is to act fairly and without any arbitrariness or malafides.

Q 15.A

- In the popular **Prakash Singh case in 2006, the Supreme Court** ordered that police reforms must take place urgently. The states and union territories were directed to comply with **seven binding directives** that would kick start reform.
- In passing these directives the Court put on record the deep-rooted problems of politicization, lack of accountability mechanisms, and systemic weaknesses that have resulted in poor all-around performance and fomented present public dissatisfaction with policing.
- The seven directives are:
  - Constitute a **State Security Commission** (SSC) to ensure that the state government does not exercise unwarranted influence or pressure on the police and lay down broad policy guidelines. **Hence option 1 is correct.**
  - Ensure that the **DGP** is appointed through a merit-based transparent process and secure a **minimum tenure of two years**.
  - Ensure that other police officers on operational duties (Including Superintendents of Police in charge of a district and Station House Officers in charge of a police station) are also **provided a minimum tenure of two years.**
  - **Separate the investigation and law and order functions of the police. Hence option 2 is correct.**
  - Set up a **Police Establishment Board (PEB)** to decide transfers, postings, promotions, and other service-related matters of police officers of and **below the rank** of Deputy Superintendent of police and make recommendations on postings and transfers above the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police.
  - Set up a **Police Complaints Authority** (PCA) at the **state** level to inquire into public complaints against police officers of and above the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police in cases of serious misconduct, including custodial death, grievous hurt, or rape in police custody and district levels to inquire into public complaints against the police personnel below the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police in cases of serious misconduct. **Hence option 3 is not correct.**
  - Set up a **National Security Commission (NSC)** at the **union level** to prepare a panel for selection and placement of Chiefs of the Central Police Organisations (CPO) with a minimum tenure of two years.

Q 16.A

- Delimitation is redrawing of boundaries of an assembly or Lok Sabha constituency. It is done to reflect the demographic changes in a state, Union Territory or at the national level. Delimitation is done to maintain the vibrance of the democracy because without delimitation the principle of one person one vote gets compromised. Proper delimitation is important because if there are significant variations in voter districts, in terms of population, then some votes will be given more weight than others. For example, if one district in Punjab with a population of 100,000 is given one national seat, while another, with a population of 10,000 is also given the same, then, the vote of people in the latter district has more weight than the former. This leads to the dilution of votes in the other district. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The validity of any law relating to the delimitation of constituencies or the allotment of seats to such constituencies made or purporting to be made under Article 243-K, shall not be called in question in any Court. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Representation of People Act, 1950, confer on the President the power to delimit after consultation with the Election Commission of India. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

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Q 17.A

- The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is the premier investigating agency of India. Operating under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions(India), Originally set up to investigate bribery and governmental corruption, in 1965 it received expanded jurisdiction to investigate breaches of central laws enforceable by the Government of India, multi-state organized crime, multi-agency or international cases.
- The agency has been known to investigate several economic crimes, special crimes, cases of corruption, and other cases. The CBI is headed by a Director, an IPS officer with the rank of Director General of Police.
- The director is selected by a high-profile committee constituted under The Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act, 1946 as amended through the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013, and has a two-year term.
- The CBI Director is appointed, for not less than a term of 2 years, by the Appointment Committee on the recommendation of Selection Committee as mentioned in DSPE Act 1946 whose members are:
  - **Prime Minister – Chairperson**
  - **Leader of Opposition of Loksabha or the Leader of the single largest opposition party in the Lok Sabha, if the former is not present due to lack of mandated strength in the Lok Sabha - member**
  - **Chief Justice of India or a Supreme Court Judge recommended by the Chief Justice – member. Hence option (a) is the correct answer.**

Q 18.C

- The 97th Constitutional Amendment Act of 2011 gave a constitutional status and protection to co-operative societies. In this context, it made the following three changes in the constitution:
  - It made the right to form co-operative societies a **Fundamental Right under Part III** (Article 191).
  - It included a new **Directive Principle of State Policy** on promotion of co- operative societies under **Part IV** (Article 43-B2).
  - It added a new **Part IX-B in the Constitution which is entitled "The Co- operative Societies".**
  - **Hence option (c) is the correct answer.**

Q 19.D

- In a **monetisation transaction**, the government is basically transferring revenue rights to private parties for a specified transaction period in return for upfront money, a revenue share, and commitment of investments in the assets. Real estate investment trusts (REITs) and infrastructure investment trusts (InvITs), for instance, are the key structures used to monetise assets in the roads and power sectors.
  - While these are a structured financing vehicle, other monetisation models on PPP (Public Private Partnership) basis include: Operate Maintain Transfer (OMT), Toll Operate Transfer (TOT), and Operations, Maintenance & Development (OMD). OMT and TOT have been used in highways sector while OMD is being deployed in case of airports.
- National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP) aims to unlock value **in brownfield projects by engaging the private sector**, **transferring to them revenue rights and not ownership in the projects**, and using the funds generated for infrastructure creation across the country. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- Currently, only assets of central government line ministries and Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) in infrastructure sectors have been included.
- The government has stressed that these are brownfield assets, which have been "de-risked" from execution risks, and therefore should encourage private investment.
- **Roads, railways and power sector** assets will comprise over 66% of the total estimated value of the assets to be monetised, with the remaining upcoming sectors including telecom, mining, aviation, ports, natural gas and petroleum product pipelines, **warehouses** and **stadiums**.
  - Roads and railways assets will **comprise over 50%** of the total estimated value of the assets to be monetised. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- **The NMP will run co-terminus with the Rs 100 lakh crore National Infrastructure Pipeline** announced in December 2019. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

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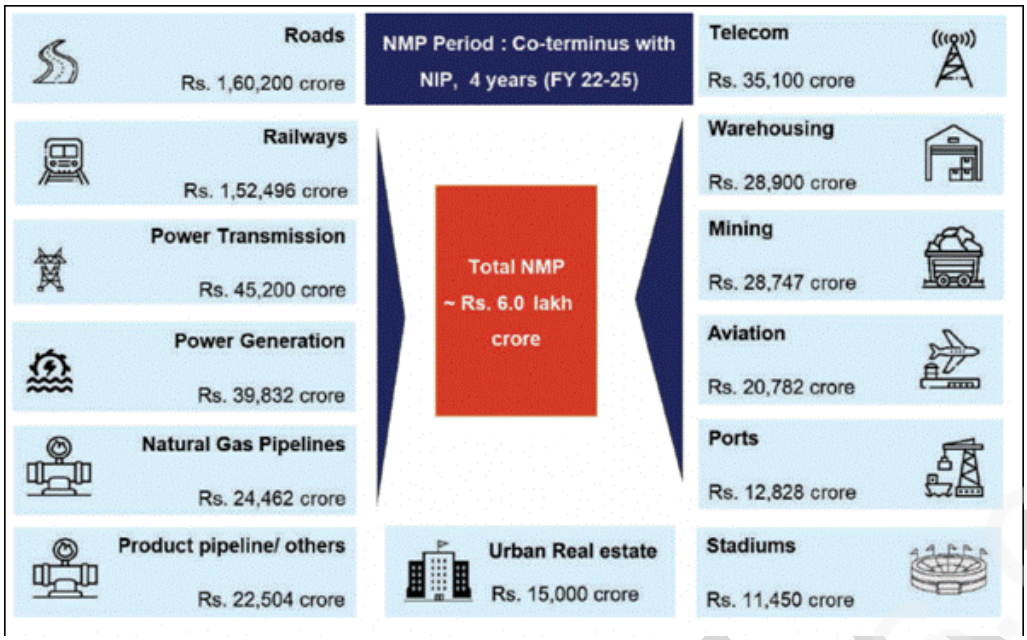

Q 20.B

- Competition Commission of India (CCI) is the competition regulator in India and prevents activities that have an adverse effect on competition in India. It is a statutory body established under the Competition Act, 2002 to promote competition throughout India. It was established in 2003 and become fully functional in 2009.
- **Statement 1 is not correct:** The Competition Act, 2002, based on the recommendations of the Raghavan committee repealed The Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969 (MRTP Act), and a regulator to prevent anti-competition activities was established under the name of Competition Commission of India.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It is a Quasi-Judicial body that aims to establish a robust competitive environment. It gives an opinion on competition issues and aims to eliminate practices having an adverse effect on competition by promoting sustain competition that protects the interests of consumers and ensures freedom of trade in the markets of India.
- **Statement 3 is not correct:** Competition Appellate Tribunal (COMPAT) was replaced with the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) (and not CCI) in 2017.

Q 21.A

- **Originally, the Constitution of India did not make any provisions with respect to the Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- **The State Reorganisation Committee (1953-55) made a recommendation in this regard** and accordingly, the seventh constitutional amendment act of 1956 inserted a new article 350-B in Part XVII of the constitution.
- Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities is appointed by the President of India. The reports of the officer are placed before each house of the Parliament by the President. Moreover, the reports related to the states are sent to the concerned state governments.
- The Commissioner has its headquarters at **Allahabad (Uttar Pradesh)** and three regional offices at Belgaum (Karnataka), Chennai (Tamil Nadu) and Kolkata (West Bengal). Each is headed by Assistant Commissioner.
- **At the Central level, the Commissioner falls under the Ministry of Minority Affairs and hence submits the annual reports or other reports to the President through Union Minority Affairs Minister. Hence statement 2 is not correct.**

Q 22.D

- According to the **World Bank**: "Civil society refers to a wide array of organizations: community groups, non-governmental organizations [NGOs], labor unions, indigenous groups, charitable organizations, faith-based organizations, professional associations, and foundations".
- Civil Societies plays the following important roles:
  - **Service providers**, for example, running primary schools and providing basic community health care services.

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- **Advocates/campaigners**, for example, lobbying Governments or businesses on issues including indigenous rights or the environment.
- **Watchdogs**, for example, monitoring State compliance with human rights treaties.
- **Building and mobilizing active citizenship**, for example, motivating civic engagement at the local level and engagement with local, regional, and national governance.
- **Participating** in global governance processes, for example, civil society organizations serve on the advisory board of the World Bank's Climate Investment Funds.
- **Forming Labour unions** and labor organizations representing workers.
- Acting as **social entrepreneurs** employing innovative and/or market-oriented approaches for social and environmental outcomes.
- Forming Grassroots associations and activities at the local level.
- Civil society organizations would have three kinds of roles in this process firstly, as members of monitoring committees; secondly as resource groups for capacity building and facilitation; and thirdly as agencies helping to carry out the independent collection of information.

- **Hence option (d) is the correct answer.**

Q 23.B

- **Recent Context:** Two women from West Bengal's Paschim Medinpur district have been awarded the National Handicraft Award in recognition of their outstanding contribution to the development of crafts, for their skills in making **Madur floor mats (Madhurkathi) that are unique to West Bengal.**
- Both the recipients are expert weavers of the Masland a fine quality Madur mat, which takes weeks to weave. During the 18th century, Masland mats flourished under royal patronage. In 1744, Nawab Alibardi Khan issued a charter to land-owning jagirdars in this regard.
- **Madhurkathi has received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.** It intrinsic part of the Bengali lifestyle and **are made of natural fibres.** Madhurkathi is a rhizome-based plant (Cyperus tegetum or Cyperus pangorei) found abundantly in the alluvial tracts of Purba and Paschim Medinipur.
- **Hence option (b) is the correct answer.**

Q 24.B

- **Arvind Gupta Vrs. Union of India (2013).**
  - **Powers of CAG to Conduct Performance Audit-**
  - In this case, decided by the Supreme Court, the Petitioner submitted that CAG of India has no power to give performance audit report and the provisions in the Regulations of audit and accounts, 2007 framed under the CAG (DPC)Act, 1971 empowering the CAG to conduct performance audit is violative of the Constitution.
  - The Supreme Court held that the CAG's functions to carry out an examination into the economy, efficiency and effectiveness with which the Government has used its resources, is in-built in the 1971 Act.
  - Performance Audit Reports prepared under the Regulations have to be viewed accordingly. The Court observed no unconstitutionality in the Regulations.
- **Reghu Nath Kelkar Vrs. Union of India and others in The High Court of Bombay (2009)**
  - **Powers of CAG regarding time, scope and extent of audit. Hence option (b) is the correct answer.**
  - In this case, decided by the High Court of Bombay, an allegation was made about the failure of the CAG to conduct a comprehensive audit. The Court considered the scope of Section 23 of the CAG (DPC) Act.
  - The Court observed that the time, scope and extent of the audit are all matters which falls within the jurisdiction of the CAG and is not a matter on which Court ought to tread.
- **National Dairy Development Boards Vrs. CAG of India. in The High Court of Delhi (2010)**
  - In this case, decided by the Delhi High Court, the powers of the CAG to conduct audit under section 14, 15 and 19 of the CAG (DPC) Act was considered-I. CAG Act is a Special Act as distinguished from a General Act.II. CAG's power to audit under Section 14(1) can be curtailed, conditional or even prohibited under any law applicable to the Body or authority. III. Section 14 (2) is an independent section that will apply once the conditions mentioned in the said Section are satisfied and the fact that the body or authority cannot be subject to audit under Section 14 (1) is irrelevant. IV. Section 15 confers the power to undertake scrutiny of the accounts/records of the sanctioning authority to ensure that proper procedure was followed while sanctioning any grant/loan. V. Section 15 and Section 14 (2) are independent sections and come into operation when the preconditions mentioned therein are satisfied. Section 15 cannot be read to override Section 14 (2) or vice-versa.

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- **Arun Kumar Aggarwal Vs. Union of India in the Supreme Court of India (2013)**
  - **CAG Audit Report as a basis for grant of relief or initiating action**
  - In this case, the Supreme Court considered, whether a CAG Audit Report by itself can be accepted by the Court to grant relief or as a basis for initiating action.
  - The Court held that CAG's Report is always subject to scrutiny by the Parliament and it is for the Parliament to decide whether after receiving the report to make its comments on the CAG's report.

Q 25.C

- **Recent context:** India will host the first Internet Governance Forum (IGF) in the country, the India Internet Governance Forum (IIGF) -2021. **It's an Internet Governance policy discussion platform to bring representatives together from various groups, considering all at par to discuss public policy issues related to the Internet.** The multi-Stakeholder concept is well adopted by IGF (Internet Governance Forum) under United Nations (UN) and by Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN). **It is an UN-based forum. Hence, statements 1 and 2 are correct.**
- India is the second-largest broadband subscription country in the world and also has the highest data consumption per user per month. Therefore, the aspirations of the Indians should be reflected in international policy formation and stakeholder discussion. India Internet Governance Forum is an initiative in that direction, for the country to ensure that the growth of broadband adheres to the lifestyle and requirements of the Indian community.
- A Coordination Committee has been set up in India to represent civil society, Government, Industry, Industrial association, trust, and other stakeholders. Starting from August 2021, multiple Pre-IIGF engagement events will be held at several colleges and universities, as a precursor to the IIGF Inaugural event. The idea behind this is to engage the youth and students for their participation in the October event and prepare the next generation to be part if policy formation.

Q 26.B

- **Recent Context: Over 700 Halam people return to Tripura after fleeing violence.**
  - Ethnically Halam belong to the **Cocase-Mongoloid** origin of **Kuki-Chin tribes**. Their language is also more or less similar to that of **Tibeto-Burman family**.They are **native to the state of Tripura, Assam and Mizoram in India.**
  - **Halams are basically Hindus and followers of Sakti-cult** though Vaishnavism is spreading among some of the sub-clans like Murasingh, Rupini and Kaloi. But **Christianity** is also being embraced by Halams.
  - Halams live in typical **"Tong Ghar"** specially made of bamboos and Chan grass. Apart from plain land cultivation they still practice Jhum cultivation and depend on both the activities beside other substitute works.
  - Marriageable age among Halams 21-24 for boys and 18-20 for girls. As per traditional customs they still honour their customary laws in setting up of marriage alliances.
  - They have their own social institute and village council. The council looks after and sorts out most of the social disputes over land, crime against women and children.
- **Hence option (b) is the correct answer.**

Q 27.A

- The Constitution makes provision for the establishment of a Joint State Public Service Commission (JSPSC) for two or more states.
- **JSPSC is a statutory body and not a constitutional body as it is created by an act of the Parliament** whereas UPSC and SPSC are created directly by the constitution.
- **Two or more States may agree that there shall be one Public Service Commission for that group of States, and if a resolution to that effect is passed by the House or, where there are two Houses, by each House of the Legislature of each of those States,** Parliament may by law provide for the appointment of a Joint State Public Service Commission. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- **The chairman and members of the JSPSC are appointed by the President**. They hold office for six years or until they attain the age of 62 years, whichever is earlier. They can be suspended or removed by the President.
- **They can also resign from office by submitting their resignation letters to the President. Hence statement 3 is not correct.**
- **JSPSC presents its annual performance report to each of the concerned state governors. Each governor places the report before the state legislature. Hence statement 2 is not correct.**

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- **The Government of India Act 1935** provided for the establishment of not only the **Federal Public Service Commission but also the Provincial Public Service Commission and Joint Public Service Commission for two or more provinces.**

Q 28.D

- The Constitution does not specify the official language of different states. In this regard, it makes the following provisions:
  - **The legislature of a state may adopt any one or more of the languages in use in the state or Hindi as the official language of that state**. Under this provision, most of the states have adopted the major regional language as their official language. For example,
    - Andhra Pradesh has adopted Telugu, Kerala—Malayalam, Assam—Assamese, West Bengal—Bengali, Odisha—Odia.
    - The nine northern states of Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Haryana and Rajasthan have adopted Hindi.
    - Gujarat has adopted Hindi in addition to Gujarati. Similarly, Goa has adopted Marathi in addition to Konkani.
    - On the other hand, certain north-eastern States like Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland have adopted English.
  - **Notably, the choice of the state is not limited to the languages enumerated in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution, and it is not compulsory that a State having more than one official language, must recognise English as well**.
  - The Official Language Act (1963) lays down that English should be used for purposes of communication between the Union and the non- Hindi states (that is, the states that have not adopted Hindi as their official language). Further, where Hindi is used for communication between a Hindi and a non-Hindi state, such communication in Hindi should be accompanied by an English translation.
  - When the President (on a demand being made) is satisfied that a **substantial proportion of the population** of a state desire the use of any language spoken by them to be recognised by that state, then he may direct that such language shall also be officially recognised in that state. This provision aims at protecting the linguistic interests of minorities in the states.
- **Hence option (d) is the correct answer.**

Q 29.D

- Good governance has eight features (or characteristics or attributes), **Participation, Rule of law, Transparency, Responsiveness, Consensus oriented, Equity and Inclusiveness, Effectiveness and Efficiency and Accountability.**
- **Participation** by both men and women is a cornerstone of good governance. Participation could be either direct or through legitimate intermediate institutions or representatives.
- Good governance requires fair legal frameworks that are enforced **impartially.** It also requires full protection of human rights, particularly those of minorities. Impartial enforcement of laws requires an independent judiciary and an impartial and incorruptible police force.
- **Transparency** means that decisions taken and their enforcement is done in a manner that is as per rules and regulations. It also means that information is freely available and directly accessible to those who will be affected by such decisions and their enforcement Information needs to be leveraged as a core strategy for monitoring implementation.
- Good governance requires that institutions and processes try to serve all stakeholders within a reasonable time frame. **Accountability** is a key requirement of good governance. Not only government institutions but also the private sector and civil society organisations must be accountable to the public and to their institutional stakeholders. Who is accountable to whom varies depending on whether decisions or actions taken are internal or external to an organisation or institution.

Q 30.C

- The role of UPSC is limited as the recommendations made by it are **only of advisory nature and hence not binding on the government**. It is up to the Union government to accept or reject the advice. **Hence option (a) is correct.**
- The only safeguard is the answerability of government to the Parliament for departing from the recommendation of the Commission. **Further, the government can also make rules** which regulate the scope of the advisory functions of UPSC. **Hence option (b) is correct.**

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- UPSC is not consulted in the following matters - **while making reservations of appointments in favour of any backward class of citizens.** - while taking into consideration the claims of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in making appointments to services and posts.- with regard to the selections for chairmanship or membership of commissions or tribunals-with regard to the temporary and officiating appointment to a post if a person appointed is not likely to hold the post for more than a year.
- The president can **exclude posts, services, and matters from the purview of the UPSC.** The constitution states that the President, in respect to all India services and Central Services and posts may make regulations specifying the matters in which, it shall not be necessary for UPSC to be consulted. **Hence option (d) is correct.**
- But all such regulations made by the President shall be laid before each House of Parliament for at least 14 days. The Parliament can amend or repeal them.
- The UPSC presents annually to the President, a report on its performance, the report is tabled in both the houses of the Parliament along with a memorandum explaining the cases where the advice of the commission was not accepted and the reasons for such non-acceptance.
- **All such cases of non-acceptance must be approved by the Appointment Committee of the Union Cabinet. Hence option (c) is not correct.**

Q 31.C

- In financial terminology, hybrid annuity means that the government makes payment in a fixed amount for a considerable period and then in a variable amount in the remaining period. This hybrid type of payment method is called HAM in technical parlance.
- Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM) has been introduced by the Government to revive PPP (Public Private Partnership) in highway construction in India.
- At present, three different models –PPP Annuity, PPP Toll and EPC (Engineering, Procurement and Construction) were followed by the government while adopting private sector participation. The launch of the new model is due to many problems encountered as associated with the existing ones. A large number of stalled projects are blocking infrastructure projects and at the same time adding to Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) of the banking system. In this context, the government has introduced Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM) to rejuvenate PPP.
- **Features the HAM is a mix between the existing two models – BOT Annuity and EPC.**
  - Build Operate and Transfer (BOT) Annuity Model
    - Under BOT annuity, a developer builds a highway, operates it for a specified duration and transfers it back to the government. The government starts payment to the developer after the launch of commercial operation of the project. Payment will be made on a six month basis.
  - Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) Model
    - Under this model, the cost is completely borne by the government. Government invites bids for engineering knowledge from the private players. Procurement of raw material and construction costs are met by the government. The private sector's participation is minimum and is limited to the provision of engineering expertise. A difficulty of the model is the high financial burden for the government.
- **Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM):**
  - The project concessionaire shall be selected through an open, transparent and competitive mechanism.
  - **Initially, the government pays only 40 percent of the project cost and the concessionaire should finance the remaining 60 percent.**
  - **After the completion of the project remaining 60% is paid as a variable annuity amount depending upon the value of assets created.**
  - **Project cost is inflation-indexed through a weighted average of Wholesale Price Index and Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers.**
  - **Hence, both statements 1 and 2 are correct.**
  - The concessionaire will remain responsible for the maintenance of the project till the end of the concession period.
  - Toll collection is the responsibility of the government.
  - Operation and Maintenance (O&M) costs are paid by the government as per the quoted amount which is inflation-indexed.
  - The concession period comprises the construction period which is project-specific and fixed operations period of 15 years.
- The advantage of HAM is that it gives enough liquidity to the developer and the financial risk is shared by the government. While the private partner continues to bear the construction and maintenance risks as in the case of the BOT (toll) model, he is required only to partly bear the financing risk.

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Q 32.D

- The rights available to women can be classified into two categories, namely, constitutional rights and legal rights. The constitutional rights are those which are provided in the various provisions of the constitution. The legal rights, on the other hand, are those which are provided in the various laws (acts) of the Parliament and the State Legislatures.
- The rights and safeguards enshrined in the constitution of India for women are as follows :
  - **The state shall not discriminate against any citizen on the ground of sex (Article 15(1)).**
  - **The state is empowered to make any special provision for women. In other words, this provision enables the state to make affirmative discrimination in favor of women (Article 15(3)).**
  - **No citizen shall be discriminated against or be ineligible for any employment or office under the state on the ground of sex (Article 16(2))**
  - Traffic in human beings and forced labor are prohibited (Article 23(1)).
  - The state to secure for men and women equally the right to an adequate means of livelihood (Article 39(a)).
  - The state to secure equal pay for equal work for both men and women (Article 39(d)).
  - The state is required to ensure that the health and strength of women workers are not abused and that they are not forced by economic necessity to enter avocations unsuited to their strength (Article 39(e)).
  - The state shall make provision for securing just and humane conditions of work and maternity relief (Article 42).
  - It shall be the duty of every citizen of India to renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women (Article 51-A(e)).
  - **One-third of the total number of seats to be filled by direct election in every Panchayat shall be reserved for women (Article 243-D(3)).**
- **Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.**

Q 33.A

- The **Law Commission of India is a non-statutory body constituted by the Government** from time to time and not by the Parliament. The Commission post-independence was originally constituted in 1955 and is **reconstituted by the Union Government every three years. Hence statements 1 is not correct and 2 is correct.**
- **The Law Commission of India submitted its report to the Ministry of Law and Justice. Hence statement 3 is not correct.**
- In the ancient period, when religious and customary law occupied the field, the reform process had been ad hoc and not institutionalized through duly constituted law reform agencies. However, since the third decade of the nineteenth century, Law Commissions were constituted by the Government from time to time and were empowered to recommend legislative reforms with a view to clarifying, consolidate and codify particular branches of law where the Government felt the necessity for it. T**he first such Commission was established in 1834 under the Charter Act of 1833 under the Chairmanship of Lord Macaulay** which recommended codification of the Penal Code, the Criminal Procedure Code, and a few other matters.
- The Law Commission consists of:
- a full-time Chairperson;
- four full-time Members (including Member-Secretary)
- Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs as ex-officio Member;
- Secretary, Legislative Department as ex officio Member; and
- not more than five part-time Members.

Q 34.D

- The Election Commission is a permanent and independent body established by the Constitution directly to ensure free and fair elections. **Article 324** of the Indian Constitution provides that the power of superintendence, direction and control of elections.
- The Election Commission has been functioning as a **multi-member body consisting of three election commissioners.** The Chief Election Commissioner and two other election commissioners.
- The Chief Election Commissioner and the two other election commissioners have **equal powers**, receive equal salaries and allowances similar to those of judges of the Supreme court.
- **In case of a difference of opinion, the matter is decided by the commission by the majority. Hence statement 1 is not correct.**

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- Any other Election Commissioner or a Regional Commissioner cannot be removed from the office **except on the recommendations of the Chief Election Commissioner. Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- The President **appoints Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners. Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- They have tenure of **six years,** or up to the age of **65 years**, whichever is earlier. The Chief Election Commissioner can be removed from office only through **impeachment by Parliament.**
- **Judicial Review -** The decisions of the Commission **can be challenged** in the High Court and the Supreme Court of India by appropriate petitions.
- By long-standing convention and several judicial pronouncements, once the actual process of elections has started, the judiciary does not intervene in the actual conduct of the polls. Once the polls are completed and the result declared, the Commission cannot review any result on its own.
- This can only be reviewed through the process of an election petition, which can be filed before the High Court, in respect of elections to the Parliament and State Legislatures.
- **In respect of elections for the offices of the President and Vice President, such petitions can only be filed before the Supreme Court.**

Q 35.C

- The **National Commission for Protection of Child Rights** is an Indian statutory body established by an Act of Parliament, the Commission for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005. **The Commission works under the aegis of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, GoI. The Commission began operational on 5 March 2007.**
- **The National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC), India is a quasi-judicial commission in India that was set up in 1988 under the Consumer Protection Act of 1986.** Its head office is in New Delhi. The commission is headed by a sitting or retired judge of the Supreme Court of India.
- **National Institution for Transforming India, also known as NITI Aayog, was formed via a resolution of the Union Cabinet on 1 January 2015.** It is the premier policy think tank of the Government of India, providing directional and policy inputs. Apart from designing strategic and long-term policies and programs for the Government of India, NITI Aayog also provides relevant technical advice to the Centre, States, and Union Territories. The Governing Council of NITI Aayog is chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister and comprises Chief Ministers of all the States and Union Territories with legislatures and Lt Governors of other Union Territories.
- **The National Investigation Agency (NIA) is India's counter-terrorism task force**. The agency is empowered to deal with terror-related crimes across states without special permission from the states. **The Agency came into existence with the enactment of the National Investigation Agency Act 2008 by the Parliament of India on 31 December 2008,** which was passed after the deadly 26/11 terror attack in Mumbai.
- **Hence option (c) is the correct answer**

Q 36.A

- Representation of People Act, 1950 was enacted to provide:
  - For **allocation of seats in the House of the People** and in the Legislative Assemblies and Legislative Council of States.
  - **Sought to confer on the President the power to delimit after consultation with the Election Commission.**
  - **For the registration of electors** for Parliamentary Constituencies and for the Assembly and Council Constituencies and the qualification and disqualification for such registration.
  - Relaxation of the residence qualification in the case of displaced persons who migrated before 25th July, 1949, to India from the territory of Pakistan.
  - **For the preparation of electoral rolls**, the period of currency of such rolls, and the revision and connection of such rolls during such period in special cases.
  - **Hence option (a) is the correct answer.**

Q 37.C

- The 52nd amendment Act of 1985 provided for the disqualification of the members of parliament and the state legislatures on the ground of defection from one political party to another. For this purpose, it made changes in four Articles of the constitution and added a new schedule (the 10th schedule) to the constitution. This act is often referred to as the 'anti -defection law'. **Hence statement 1 is correct**.

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- Under anti defection law the provision of the 10th schedule pertaining to exemption from disqualification in case of split by one third members of legislature party has been deleted by the 91st amendment Act of 2003.It means that the defectors have no more protection on grounds of splits. **Hence Statement 2 is not correct.**
- Any question regarding disqualification arising out of defection is to be decided by the presiding officer of the house. Originally, the act provided that the decision of the presiding officer is final and cannot be questioned in any court. However, in Kihoto holohon case(1993), the supreme court declared this provision as unconstitutional on the ground that it seeks to take away the jurisdiction of the supreme court and the High Court. It held that the presiding officer while deciding a question under the 10th schedule, functions as a tribunal. Hence his decision like that of any other tribunal is subject to judicial review on the grounds of malafides, perversity. etc. But, the court rejected the contention that the vesting of adjudicatory powers in the presiding officer is by itself invalid on the ground of political bias. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**

Q 38.B

- In April 2017, **Meghalaya** became the first state in the country to pass social audit legislation, the Meghalaya Community Participation, and Public Services Social Audit Act. **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
  - This Act mandated social audits across 21 schemes and 11 departments.
  - Meghalaya audits had been built on traditional tribal institutions, leveraging their inherent strengths and facilitating their engagement with contemporary democratic practices.
- **Section 17** of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), 2005 has **mandated** a Social audit of all Works executed under the MGNREGA. **Hence statement 2 is correct**.
- The **Audit of Scheme Rules, 2011** were prepared by the **Ministry of Rural Development in consultation with the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)** of India.
  - These rules are also called the **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Audit** of Schemes Rules, 2011.
  - These rules define the process of social audit and the responsibilities of the Social Audit Unit (SAU), state government, and the field functionaries of MGNREGA, to be followed across the country.
  - These rules also emphasize the role of the SAU, its pre-requisites, the process of social audit, and the responsibilities of designated officials.

Q 39.A

- **The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of India is a Statutory public body constituted on 12 October 1993 under the Protection of Human Rights Ordinance of 28 September 1993. It was given a statutory basis by the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993.** The NHRC is responsible for the protection and promotion of human rights, defined by the Act as "Rights Relating To Life, liberty, equality and dignity of the individual guaranteed by the Constitution or embodied in the International Covenants and enforceable by courts in India".Ever since its inception, the Commission has relentlessly pursued the cause of human rights as per its mandate, elucidated in the Protection of Human Rights Act.
- The Commission's decisions are only recommendatory. The Governments are not bound to implement them. It is open for them to challenge NHRC recommendations in High Courts. But, it should be informed about the action taken on its recommendations within one month. **Hence statement 1 is not correct**
- NHRC is composed of a Chairman and seven other members. Out of the seven members, three are ex-officio members. The Chairman and members of NHRC are appointed by the President of India on the recommendation of a high-powered committee headed by the Prime Minister.

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Chairman	Retired Chief Justice of India
Member 1	Retired Judge of Supreme Court of India
Member 2	Retired Judge of any High Court of India
Other Two Members	Individuals practical experience in the matters of Human Rights
Ex Officio Members	Chairpersons of the below national commissions: National Commission for Minorities National Commission for Scheduled Castes National Commission for Scheduled Tribes National Commission for Women

- **Hence statement 2 is correct**
- NHRC can look into a matter within one year of its occurrence, i.e the Commission is not empowered to inquire into any matter after the expiry of one year from the date on which the act constituting a violation of human rights is alleged to have been committed. **Hence statement 3 is correct**

Q 40.B

- National Medical Commission (NMC), constituted under NMC Act, 2019 Act replaces the Medical Council of India (MCI) as the country's medical education regulator. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- It provides for a medical education system that ensures
  - availability of adequate and high-quality medical professionals
  - adoption of the latest medical research by medical professionals
  - periodic assessment of medical institutions
  - an effective grievance redressal mechanism
- **Members: The NMC will consist of 33 members**
  - **The Chairperson (must be a medical practitioner)**
  - 10 Ex-officio Members including Presidents of the Under-Graduate and Post-Graduate Medical Education Boards, General of Health Services, Directorate General of Health Services, and Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research.
  - 22 Part-time Members of which at least 60% of the members must be medical practitioners
- **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Functions of National Medical Commission:
  - To lay down policies for maintaining high quality and high standards in medical education and make necessary regulations.
  - **To lay down policies for regulating medical institutions, medical researchers, and medical professionals and make necessary regulations.**
  - **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
  - Framing guidelines for determination of fees for up to 50% of seats in private medical institutions and deemed universities which are regulated under the Bill.
  - To assess the requirements in healthcare, including human resources for health and healthcare infrastructure and develop a road map for meeting such requirements
  - To promote, co-ordinate and frame guidelines and lay down policies by making necessary regulations for the proper functioning of the Commission, the Autonomous Boards and the State Medical Councils; (e) ensure co-ordination among the Autonomous Boards; (f) take such measures, as may be necessary, to ensure compliance by the State Medical Councils of the guidelines framed and regulations made under this Act for their effective functioning under this Act
  - To exercise appellate jurisdiction with respect to the decisions of the Autonomous Boards
  - To lay down policies and codes to ensure observance of professional ethics in medical profession and to promote ethical conduct during the provision of care by medical practitioners

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- To exercise such other powers and perform such other functions as may be prescribed.

- The Act also sets up autonomous boards under the supervision of the NMC. Each autonomous board will consist of a President and four members, appointed by the central government. These boards are
  - Under-Graduate Medical Education Board and Post-Graduate Medical Education Board to set standards and regulate medical education at undergraduate level and postgraduate level respectively.
  - Medical Assessment and Rating Board for inspections and rating of medical institutions
  - Ethics and Medical Registration Board to regulate and promote professional conduct and medical ethics and also maintain national registers of (a) licensed medical practitioners and (b) Community Health Providers (CHPs).

Q 41.D

- **Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot System (ETPBS):**
- **Background**
  - Earlier the postal ballot paper to the service voters was sent by the Returning Officer after printing the ballot for each and every service voter of the Constituency, and then put it in an envelope inscribed with the address of the Record Office of each service voter. This takes a lot of resources, effort, and time, thus increasing the chance of mistake since each ballot need to be printed and put in the correct envelope.
  - ETPBS is the one-way electronic transmission of the Postal ballots to the Service Voters. The Service Voter then cast their vote and send it to the respective returning officer via Post. The complete process is secured by way of multiple checks and transmission protocol to ensure safe transmission.
  - Upon receipt of the postal ballot at the counting centers, the returning officer validates the receipt by a series of QR codes with that of the transmitted system.
  - Service voters can avail of this service from anywhere outside their assigned constituency. The system facilitates the creation of service voter electoral roll data. OTP (one-time-password) is required to download encrypted electronically transmitted postal ballot files. A PIN is required to decrypt, print, and deliver ETPB.
  - ETPBS enables the entitled service voters to cast their vote (on the electronically received postal ballot) from their preferred location, which is outside their originally assigned voting constituency.
  - **Service voters:** Individuals working **in central forces under the arms act and government officials deployed in embassies outside the country** are classified as service voters and are provisioned for online enrolment. The **wife of a service voter who ordinarily resides with him is also eligible** to vote through ETPBS. **Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.**
  - It is **developed by the Election Commission of India** with the help of the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing **(C-DAC),** for the use of the service voters.

Q 42.A

- The Central Vigilance Commission was set up by the Government in February 1964 on the recommendations of the Committee on Prevention of Corruption, headed by Shri K. Santhanam, to advise and guide Central Government agencies in the field of vigilance**. The CVC is not controlled by any Ministry/Department.** It is an independent body that is only responsible for the Parliament. The Commission shall consist of:
  - A Central Vigilance Commissioner - Chairperson;
  - Not more than two Vigilance Commissioners - Members;
- The Central Vigilance Commissioner shall hold office for a term of four years from the date on which he enters upon his office or till he attains the age of sixty-five years, whichever is earlier. **The Central Vigilance Commissioner, on ceasing to hold the office, shall be ineligible for reappointment in the Commission or for further employment under the Central or state government. Hence statement 3 is not correct while statement 2 is correct**
- The CVC is not an investigating agency. **The CVC either gets the investigation done through the CBI or through the Departmental Chief Vigilance Officers.** Secondly, the CVC orders investigation into cases of officials of Central Government Departments/Companies/Organisations only. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**

Q 43.C

- **Recent Context:** For the first time Rubber Board started a nationwide census on rubber, to prepare a comprehensive database on rubber plantations and rubber growers. **India is the sixth-largest producer of Natural Rubber with one of the highest productivity. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

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- The census is proposed to be carried out all over India in a phased manner. A mobile application, RUBAC, is being used for the same. It was developed by the Rubber Board in association with the Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management, with the active participation of rubber producer's societies.
- **Kerala tops natural rubber cultivation followed by Tripura. Kerala accounts for 67% of the rubber area in the country,** of which, Kottayam district shares about one-fifth of the area and hence the survey is proposed to initiate in Kottayam in the first phase. **Other major producers are Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Assam and the other North Eastern States. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Indian rubber plantation sector is dominated by smallholders who account for 92 per cent of the production and 91 per cent of the planted area in the country. The sector has 1.32 million small rubber growers, and their planted `area comes to around 8.2 lakh hectares. **100% FDI in plantations of natural rubber is allowed. Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Q 44.D

- The Government of India recently notified Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules 2021.
- Rules have been framed by the Central Government in the exercise of powers under section 87 (2) of the Information Technology Act, 2000 and in supersession of the earlier Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines) Rules 2011.
- **Guidelines Related to Social Media Intermediaries:**
    - Due diligence to be followed by intermediaries: Rules prescribe due diligence that must be followed by social media intermediaries like retention of user information for a period of 180 days, reporting cyber security incidents, etc.
        - In case, due diligence is not followed by the intermediary, safe harbor provisions will not apply to them.
        - These safe harbor provisions have been defined under Section 79 of the IT Act, and protect social media intermediaries by giving them immunity from legal prosecution for any content posted on their platforms.
    - Grievance Redressal Mechanism: Intermediaries shall appoint a Grievance Officer to deal with complaints and share the name and contact details of such officer.
        - The Grievance Officer shall acknowledge the complaint within 24 hours and resolve it within 15 days from its receipt.
    - Ensuring Online Safety and Dignity of Users, especially Women Users: Intermediaries shall remove or disable access within 24 hours of receipt of complaints of contents that expose the private areas of individuals or is in the nature of impersonation including morphed images, etc.
    - **Two Categories of Social Media Intermediaries i.e., social media intermediaries and significant social media intermediaries (SSMI): This distinction is done to encourage innovations and enable the growth of new social media intermediaries without subjecting smaller platforms to significant compliance requirements.**
        - Social media intermediary means an intermediary which primarily or solely enables online interaction between two or more users and allows them to create, upload, share, disseminate, modify or access information using its services
        - **Significant social media intermediary (SSMI) means a social media intermediary having a number of registered users in India, above such threshold as notified by the Central Government.**
            - **The threshold for SSMI has been set at 50 lakh (5 million) registered users.**
        - **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
    - **Additional due diligence to be followed by SSMI include:**
        - **Appointment of a Chief Compliance Officer for ensuring compliance with the Act and Rules.**
        - only SSMIs have to appoint a Chief Compliance Officer as per the rules. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct**
        - Appointment of Nodal Contact Person for 24x7 coordination with law enforcement agencies.
        - Appointment of a Resident Grievance Officer to perform the functions mentioned under Grievance Redressal Mechanism. The above officers must be residents in India.
        - Publishing a monthly compliance report mentioning the details of complaints received, action taken on the complaints, and details of contents removed.
        - Identification of the first originator of the information: SSMI providing services primarily in the nature of messaging shall enable identification of the first originator of the information (without

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requiring disclosing the contents of any message) that is required only for the purposes of prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution or punishment of an offense related to
    - sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the State, friendly relations with foreign states, or public order or of incitement to an offense relating to the above or in relation with rape, sexually explicit material or child sexual abuse material.
- > Voluntary User Verification Mechanism: Users who wish to verify their accounts voluntarily to be provided an appropriate mechanism to do so with the provision of a demonstrable and visible marks of verification.
- > Giving users an opportunity to be heard: In cases where significant social media intermediaries removes or disables access to any information on their own accord, then a prior intimation should be communicated to the user notice explaining the grounds and reasons for such action and the user must be provided an adequate and reasonable opportunity to dispute the action.

Q 45.B

- The **National Commission for Women was set up as a statutory body in January 1992 under the National Commission for Women Act, 1990** (Act No. 20 of 1990 of Government of India) to :
    - review the Constitutional and Legal safeguards for women
    - advise the Government on all policy matters affecting women. **Hence statement 1 is correct**
    - facilitate redressal of grievances and
    - recommend remedial legislative measures ;
- The Commission shall, while inquiring into complaints under this Act, have all the powers of a civil court trying a suit under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (5 of 1908), and in particular in respect of the following matters, namely:-
    - Summoning and enforcing the attendance of witnesses and examining them on oath;
    - Any other matter which may be prescribed.
    - Issuing commissions for the examination of witnesses or documents;
    - Requisitioning any public record or copy thereof from any court or office;
    - Receiving evidence on affidavits;
    - Discovery and production of any document;
- The Commission may take any of the following steps upon the completion of an inquiry held under these regulations, namely-
    - where the inquiry discloses, the commission of a violation of any rights or negligence in the prevention of violation of any rights by a public servant, it may recommend to the concerned Government or authority the initiation of proceedings for prosecution or such other action as the Commission may deem fit against the concerned person or persons;
    - Recommend to the concerned Government or authority for the grant of such immediate relief to the victim or the members of his family as the Commission may consider necessary;
    - Approach the Supreme Court or the High Court concerned for such directions, orders or writs as that Court may deem necessary;
- Currently, **National Commission for Women does not have the power to penalize,** more often than not those summoned fail to turn up to attend the commission's hearings. **Though the commission won't have the power to arrest, it could recommend initiation of prosecution if the inquiry finds a violation of women's rights by any public servant. Hence statement 2 is not correct**
- The commission consists of a chairperson, a member secretary, and five other members**. The chairperson of the NCW is nominated by the Central Government. The Minister for Women and Child Development is not the ex officio chairperson of the commission.** The Central Government also nominates the member secretary. The member secretary should be an expert in the field of management. He or she is an officer or organization who is a member. The five members nominated by the Central Government should be individuals with ability, standing, and integrity. They should have experience in law, legislation, management, women's voluntary organizations, economic social development, and so on. **Hence statement 3 is not correct**

Q 46.A

- The National Education Policy 2020 (NEP) aims to pave way for transformational reforms in school and higher education systems in the country. This policy will replace the 34-year-old National Policy on Education (NPE),1986.
- The vision of the National Education Policy 2020
    - An education system that contributes to an equitable and vibrant knowledge society, by providing high-quality education to all.

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- Develops a deep sense of respect towards the fundamental rights, duties, and constitutional values, bonding with one's country, and conscious awareness of one's role and responsibilities in a changing world.
- Instils skills, values, and dispositions that support responsible commitment to human rights, sustainable development and living, and global well-being, thereby reflecting a truly global citizen.

- **Key Provisions of National Education Policy 2020**
  - **SCHOOL EDUCATION**
    - **Universal Access for children of 3-6 years: It brings the hitherto uncovered age group of 3-6 years under the school curriculum.**
    - **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
    - Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) will be delivered through Anganwadis and pre-schools that will have teachers and Anganwadi workers trained in the ECCE pedagogy and curriculum.
    - Pre-school sections covering at least one year of early childhood care and education will be added to Kendriya Vidyalayas and other primary schools, particularly in disadvantaged areas.
    - **NEP aims to achieve a 100% Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in preschool to secondary level by 2030 through**
      - **Providing effective and sufficient infrastructure so that all students have access to safe and engaging school education.**
      - **Open and Distance Learning (ODL)** Programmes offered by the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) and State Open Schools will be expanded and strengthened with special emphasis on Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs).
      - **Tracking students** as well as their learning levels through counsellors or well-trained social workers
    - **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
    - NCERT will develop a National Curricular and Pedagogical Framework for Early Childhood Care and Education (NCPFECCE) for children up to the age of 8.
    - **It restructures the school curriculum and pedagogy in a new 5+3+3+4 design.**
      - **5 years of the Foundational Stage** (covering ages 3-8): 3 years of Anganwadi/pre-school + 2 years in primary school in Grades 1-2
      - **3 years of the Preparatory Stage** (covering ages 8-11): Grades 3, 4, 5.
      - **3 years of the Middle Stage** (covering ages 11-14): Grades 6, 7, 8.
      - **4 years of the High Stage** (covering ages 14-18): Grades 9, 10, 11, 12
    - **Hence, statement 3 is not correct**
    - Experiential learning will be adopted in all stages, including hands-on learning, arts-integrated and sports-integrated education.
    - Freedom of choosing a variety of subject combinations: no rigid separation among 'curricular', 'extracurricular', or 'co-curricular, among 'arts', 'humanities', and 'sciences', or between 'vocational' or 'academic' streams.
    - Introduction of contemporary subjects such as Artificial Intelligence, Design Thinking, Holistic Health, Organic Living, Environmental Education, Global Citizenship Education (GCED), etc.
    - Vocational education through a 10-day bagless period sometime during Grades 6-8 where students will intern with local vocational experts such as carpenters, gardeners, potters, artists, etc.
    - **National Mission on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy by MHRD**: Under it, States/UTs will prepare an implementation plan for attaining universal foundational literacy and numeracy in all primary schools for all learners by grade 3 by 2025.
    - National Repository of high-quality resources on foundational literacy and numeracy will be made available on the Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing (DIKSHA).
    - **National Assessment Centre, PARAKH** (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development), will be set up as a standard-setting body under MHRD.
    - **Medium of instruction up till grade 5, and preferably till Grade 8 and beyond, will be home language/ mother-tongue/ local language.**
    - The Languages of India' a fun project/ activity to be taken by every student under the 'Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat' initiative.
    - **Three languages formula with greater flexibility.**
      - **Hence, statement 4 is not correct**

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    - All classical languages (Sanskrit, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Odia) will be widely available in schools as options. In addition, Pali, Persian, and Prakrit will also be widely available as options
- **HIGHER EDUCATION**
    - All higher education institutions to be consolidated into three types of institutions:
        - Research Universities - equal focus on research and teaching
        - Teaching Universities - primary focus on teaching with a significant focus on research
        - Autonomous degree-granting colleges - almost exclusive focus on teaching
        - An Academic Bank of Credit is to be established for digitally storing academic credits earned from different HEIs so that these can be transferred and counted towards final degree earned.
        - Multidisciplinary Education and Research Universities (MERUs), at par with IITs, IIMs, to be set up as models of best multidisciplinary education of global standards.
        - Higher Education Commission of India (HECI) will be set up as a single overarching umbrella body for entire higher education, excluding medical and legal education. HECI is to have four independent verticals
            - National Higher Education Regulatory Council (NHERC) for regulation
            - General Education Council (GEC) for standard-setting
            - Higher Education Grants Council (HEGC) for funding
            - National Accreditation Council (NAC) for accreditation.
- **OTHER MAJOR PROVISIONS**
- The Centre and the States will work together to increase the public investment in the Education sector to reach 6% of GDP.
- NEP aims to achieve 100% youth and adult literacy.
- An autonomous body, National Educational Technology Forum (NETF), will be created to provide a platform for the free exchange of ideas on the use of technology to enhance learning, assessment, planning, administration.

Q 47.A

- **Article 148 states that there shall be a Comptroller and Auditor-General of India who shall be appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal.**
- He shall only be removed from office in like manner and on like grounds as a Judge of the Supreme Court.
- Every person appointed to be the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India shall, before he enters upon his office, **make and subscribe before the President or some person appointed in that behalf by him, an oath or affirmation** according to the form set out for the purpose in the Third Schedule.
- Section IV of the Third Schedule of the Constitution of India prescribes the following form of oath or affirmation to be made by the Judges of the Supreme Court and the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India at the time of assumption of office. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- The Comptroller and Auditor-General is not **eligible for further office** either under the Government of India or under the Government of any State after he has ceased to hold his office. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- The **Comptroller and Auditor-General cause the accounts of the District and Regional Councils in tribal areas under the sixth schedule to be audited in such manner as he may think fit.**
- The reports of the Comptroller and Auditor-General relating to such accounts shall be submitted to the Governor who shall cause them to be laid before the Council. **Hence statement 3 is not correct.**

Q 48.C

- **Recent Context: Recently the government launched the "Startup Accelerators of MeitY for pRoduct Innovation, Development and growth (SAMRIDH)" scheme.**
- **Under the scheme, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology will support 300 startups, where it will provide seed funding, mentorship, and market access to create 100 unicorns out of the selected startups.** The programme is being implemented by MeitY Startup Hub (MSH) and aims to create a conducive platform for software product startups to enhance their products, securing investments for scaling their business. **Hence, statements 1 and 2 are correct.**
- **Under the scheme, an investment of up to Rs 40 lakh, based on the current valuation and growth stage of the startup, will be provided through selected accelerators.** It will also facilitate equal matching investment by the accelerator or investor.

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Q 49.C

- **Facebook India** recently announced a new programme called the **"Small Business Loans Initiative"**, in partnership with online lending platform **Indifi**, to help small and medium businesses (SMBs) that advertise on Facebook to get quick access to credit through independent lending partners.
- India is the first country where Facebook is rolling out this programme. It is open to businesses registered across 200 towns and cities of India. Indifi is the first lending partner that Facebook has tied up with and the programme is built with the potential to bring more partners on board. The goal of the initiative is to make **business loans more easily accessible to small businesses**, and reduce the credit gap within India's MSME sector.
- **Hence option (c) is the correct answer.**

Q 50.D

- **Recent Context:** In pursuance of the announcement made on the occasion of National Handloom Day on 7th August 2021 for doubling the production and quadrupling the exports of handlooms in a span of 3 years the Government has constituted a Committee headed by Sh. Sunil Sethi, Chairman, Fashion Design Council of India (FDCI).
- The committee will submit the final report within 45 days from the day of its constitution.
- The Terms of Reference of the Committee also includes:
  - To suggest ways for partnering and collaboration of handloom weavers agencies with the designers, buying houses and institutions, organizations and exporters.
  - To suggest the ways and means for improving the marketing of handloom products in the domestic market.
  - To suggest the measure for improving the input supplies (raw materials, credit, technology up-gradation, skilling, designs etc.
- **Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.**

Q 51.A

- The role of CAG is to uphold the Constitution of India and the laws of Parliament in the field of financial administration.
- The accountability of the executive to the Parliament in the sphere of financial administration is secured through audit reports of the CAG.
- **The CAG is an agent of the parliament** and conducts audits of expenditure on behalf of Parliament. **Therefore, CAG is responsible only to the Parliament.**
- **Article 279- He ascertains and certifies the net proceeds of any tax or duty. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- His certification is final. The 'net proceeds' means the proceeds of a tax or duty minus the cost of collection.
- In practice, CAG is fulfilling the role of Auditor-General only as **CAG has no control over the issue of money from the consolidated fund and many departments are authorized to draw money by issuing cheques without specific authority from the CAG. Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
- In India, **the executive can withdraw the money from the public exchequer however, in Britain, it is only possible with the approval of CAG. Hence statement 3 is not correct.**

Q 52.C

- **Recent Context: India's evacuation mission from Afghanistan is named 'Operation Devi Shakti'.**
- In April, United States of America decided to continue with the withdrawal of its forces in Afghanistan. After this Taliban swiftly captured the majority of Afghanistan's territory including the capital city Kabul.
- India's complex mission to evacuate its citizens and Afghanistan partners from Kabul was undertaken after its swift takeover by the Taliban. So far, India has evacuated over 800 people amid a deteriorating security situation in Kabul and scramble by various nations to rescue their citizens.
- **Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.**

Q 53.B

- In **2000**, the then NDA government formed a panel headed by the former Chief Justice of Kerala and Karnataka, **Justice V.S. Malimath**, to suggest an overhaul of the century-old criminal justice system.
- Two years later, the Justice Malimath Committee submitted a report with **158 recommendations** to the Deputy Prime Minister, L.K. Advani, who was also the Home Minister. The Committee felt that the existing system "weighed in favor of the accused and did not adequately focus on justice to the victims of crime."

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- Some of its important recommendations were:
  - The panel recommended a **modification to Article 20 (3)** of the Constitution that protects the accused from being compelled to be a witness against himself/herself.
  - The Committee suggested that a Schedule to the Code be brought out in all regional languages so that the accused knows his/her rights, as well as how to enforce them and whom to approach when there is a denial of those rights.
  - The Committee made a series of recommendations to ensure justice to the victims.
  - The Committee suggested hiving off the investigation wing from Law and Order. It also recommended the setting up of a National Security Commission and State Security Commissions.
- **K. Padmanabhaiah** headed the **Committee on Police Reforms in 2000** set up by the Government of India to study the functional capabilities of the Indian Police Service and propose reorganization measures to revamp the force.
- The **1978 Dharamveer Commission** recommended many reforms for the police force. One of the recommendations said the top police leadership should be selected not by politicians but by an apolitical representative and impartial body.
- The **Gore Committee (1971 - 73)** was appointed to under-take a review of the **existing police training programs** in the country and to suggest ways in which they should be modified so that the country may have a police force that is professionally well-equipped and capable of responding effectively to the changing social situation.
- **Hence option (b) is the correct answer.**

Q 54.D

- The Balwant Rai Mehta Committee was a committee originally appointed by the Government of India **on 16 January 1957** to examine the working of the Community Development Programme (2 October 1952) and the National Extension Service (2 October 1953) and to suggest measures for their better working. The Chairman of this committee was Balwantrai G Mehta. The committee submitted its report on 24 November 1957 and recommended the establishment of the scheme of 'democratic decentralization' which finally came to be known as Panchayati Raj. The main aim of the Panchayat raj system is to settle the local problems locally and to make the people politically conscious.
- A **Committee on Prevention of Corruption** was appointed by the Government of India in 1960 under the chairmanship of **K. Santhanam**. This Committee gave its report in **1962**.
  - The recommendations pertained to various aspects of corruption. It was on the basis of the recommendations of this Committee that the Central Vigilance Commission was set up in 1964 for looking into the cases of corruption against the central government and other employees.
- **Dinesh Goswami Committee (1990)** was concerned with electoral reforms. It suggested providing state funding in kind to political parties. It also suggested that a candidate should not be allowed to contest elections from more than two constituencies.
- **Hence option (d) is the correct answer.**

Q 55.B

- The National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution (NCRWC) was set up by a **resolution of the Government of India** in 2000. **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- The 11-member Commission was headed by **M.N. Venkatachaliah**, the former Chief Justice of India. It submitted its report in 2002. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- According to the terms of reference, the commission was required to examine, in the light of the experience of the past fifty years, as to how far the existing provisions of the Constitution are capable of responding to the needs of efficient, smooth and effective system of governance and socio- economic development of modern India and to recommend changes, if any.
- **Its task was to review the working of the Constitution and not to rewrite it** and its function was only recommendatory and advisory in nature. **It was left to the Parliament** to accept or reject any of the recommendations. **Hence statement 3 is not correct.**

Q 56.A

- A party that loses its recognition does not lose its symbol immediately. A party that is unrecognized in the present election but was a recognized national or state party in not earlier than six years from the date of notification of the election can be allotted its reserved symbol. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The extension in the use of symbol does not mean the extension of other facilities provided to recognized parties like free time on Doordarshan/AIR, free supply of copies of electoral rolls and so on.

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- If a political party recognized as a state party in some state or states, sets up a candidate in any other state or UT, **it can be allotted the symbol reserved for it in its state recognition provided that symbol is not reserved for any recognized state party in that state.** It is, however, up to the EC to grant such permission if the commission does not have a reasonable ground for refusing such application. For example- the Samajwadi party cannot contest election in Andhra Pradesh on the cycle symbol, as it is reserved for TDP in that state. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

Q 57.B

- **Recent Context: Indore, India's cleanest city, has now been declared as the country's first 'water plus' city. The certification was awarded under the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) and Swachh Survekshan assessment. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **The Water PLUS protocol aims to provide a guideline for cities and towns to ensure that no untreated wastewater is released into the environment thereby enabling sustainability of the sanitation value chain.**
- The Water Plus toolkit provides the detailed SBM Water Plus protocol laid down by MoHUA, along with declaration formats to be obtained from various stakeholders, that wards/work circles (in case under the jurisdiction of development authority) and cities are required to submit, as part of the SBM Water Plus declaration and certification process.
- Swachh Survekshan is an annual survey of cleanliness, hygiene and sanitation in cities and towns across India launched as part of the Swachh Bharat Mission. It is conducted by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

Q 58.C

- The **2nd Administrative Reforms Commission** is of the view that mechanisms for citizens' participation in governance could be conceptualized in the following main forms:
  - **Access to information** is a fundamental prerequisite for ensuring citizens' participation in governance. Making information available (on procedures, prices, application forms, officers to be contacted for grievance redressal, etc) is the first step in any strategy to empower citizens for their interaction with the government. **Right to Information Act** in India has in essence already laid down the groundwork for ensuring this pre-requisite for citizens' participation in governance.
  - **Listening to the voice of citizens** not just during periodic elections but on an ongoing basis is the starting point of participation of citizens in governance.
  - Government servants should be **accountable** not only to their superiors but also to citizens.
  - Making public agencies work and ensuring that their service delivery would meet the criteria of **efficiency, equity, and customer satisfaction** requires citizens to voice their grievance and their dissatisfaction in an organized manner. The mechanisms used could include **citizens' feedback and surveys**, citizens' report card, and **social audit**.
  - **Decentralized planning** by empowering the Gram Sabha to decide on issues of implementation in government welfare schemes.
- **Hence option (c) is the correct answer.**

Q 59.C

- The **administrative expenses of the Lokpal, including all salaries, allowances, and pensions payable to or in respect of the Chairperson, Members or Secretary or other officers or staff of the Lokpal, shall be charged upon the Consolidated Fund of India** and any fees or other money taken by the Lokpal shall form part of that Fund. **Hence statement 2 is correct**
- The Lokpal consists of a Chairperson and eight Members out of whom 50% are Judicial Members. The **Chairperson and the Members are appointed by the President of India by warrant under his hand and seal and hold office for a term of five years from the date on which they enter upon the office or until they attain the age of 70 years, whichever is earlier.** The **salary, allowances, and other conditions of services of the Chairperson are the same as that of the Chief Justice of India.** The salary, allowances and other conditions of services of the Members are the same as that of a Judge of the Supreme Court. **Hence statement 1 is correct**
- The idea of constituting an Ombudsman-type institution to look into the grievances of individuals against the administration was first mooted in 1963 during a debate on Demands for Grants for the Law Ministry**. In 1966, the First Administrative Reforms Commission recommended that two independent authorities at the central(Lokpal) and state level (Lokayukta) be established to enquire into complaints against public functionaries (including Members of Parliament).**

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- The Lokpal has jurisdiction to inquire into allegations of corruption against anyone who is or has been Prime Minister, or a Minister in the Union government, or a Member of Parliament, as well as officials of the Union Government under Groups A, B, C and D. Also covered are chairpersons, members, officers and directors of any board, corporation, society, trust or autonomous body either established by an Act of Parliament or wholly or partly funded by the Union or State government. It also covers any society or trust or body that receives foreign contribution above ₹10 lakh (approx. US$ 14,300/- as of 2019).

Q 60.D

- The **National Statistical Commission was set up in 2005** through a **Notification on recommendations of Rangarajan Commission**, as an interim measure.
- However, in the **absence of any legislative framework,** the NSC has faced challenges in implementing its recommendations. **There is no legislative framework and therefore it is not a statutory body. Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- The NSC is the **apex advisory body on statistical matters**, but its **suggestions are not binding on the government. Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
- Composition: a part-time Chairperson who is, or has been, an eminent statistician or social scientist, four part-time Members, Chief Executive Officer, NITI Aayog as ex-officio Member and **Chief Statistician of India as its Secretary. Hence statement 3 is not correct.**
- Core statistics generated by NSC include national income statistics like **GDP, jobs data, industry data and budgetary transactions data.**

Q 61.A

- The "Constitution 97th Amendment Act, 2011" introduced Part IXB under the chapter heading 'The Co-operative Societies'.
  - **The provisions in the Amendment were passed by the Parliament without getting them ratified by State legislatures as required by the Constitution.**
  - Part IX B, which consists of Articles 243ZH to 243ZT, has "significantly and substantially impacted" State legislatures' "exclusive legislative power" over its co-operative sector under **Entry 32 of the State List.**
- **SC held that the 97th Constitutional Amendment required ratification by at least one-half of the state legislatures as per Article 368(2) of the Constitution, since it dealt with an entry which was an exclusive state subject (co-operative societies).**
  - Under Article 368(2), Parliament can amend the Constitution by passing a Bill with a special majority.
- **Since such ratification was not done in the case of the 97th amendment, it was liable to be struck down.**
  - It did not strike down the portions of Part IXB of the Amendment concerning '**Multi State Co-operative Societies (MSCS)**' due to the lack of ratification.
  - When it comes to MSCS with objects not confined to one State, the legislative power would be that of the Union of India which is contained in Entry 44 List I (Union List).
- **Hence option (a) is the correct answer.**

Q 62.A

- The **Bar Council of India is a statutory body created by Parliament** under the **Advocates Act'1961** to regulate and represent the Indian bar. The Council performs the regulatory function by prescribing standards of professional conduct and etiquette and by exercising disciplinary jurisdiction over the bar. **The Council also sets standards for legal education and grants recognition to Universities whose degree in law will serve as a qualification for enrolment as an advocate. Hence statement 1 is not correct while statement 3 is correct**
- **Functions of Bar Council:**
  - To lay down standards of professional conduct and etiquette for advocates.
  - To lay down the procedure to be followed by its disciplinary committee and the disciplinary committees of each State Bar Council.
  - To safeguard the rights, privileges, and interests of advocates.
  - To promote and support law reform.
  - To deal with and dispose of any matter which may be referred to it by a State Bar Council.
  - To promote legal education and to lay down standards of legal education. This is done in consultation with the Universities in India imparting legal education and the State Bar Councils.

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- To recognize Universities whose degree in law shall be a qualification for enrolment as an advocate. The Bar Council of India visits and inspects Universities, or directs the State Bar Councils to visit and inspect Universities for this purpose.
- To conduct seminars and talks on legal topics by eminent jurists and publish journals and papers of legal interest.
- To organize legal aid to the poor.
- To recognize on a reciprocal basis, the foreign qualifications in law obtained outside India for the purpose of admission as an advocate in India.
- To manage and invest the funds of the Bar Council.
- To provide for the election of its members who shall run the Bar Councils.

- The Bar Council of India consists of members elected from each State Bar Council, and the **Attorney General of India, and the Solicitor General of India who are ex-officio members.** The members from the State Bar Councils are elected for a period of five years. The Council elects its own Chairman and Vice-Chairman for a period of two years from amongst its members. **Hence statement 2 is correct**

Q 63.A

- **Section 151A of the Representation of the People Act**, a bye-election for filling any vacancy referred to in any of the said sections shall be held within a period of six months from the date of the occurrence of the vacancy: Provided that nothing contained in this section shall apply if—
  - the remainder of the term of a member in relation to a vacancy is less than one year; or
  - the Election Commission in consultation with the Central Government certifies that it is difficult to hold the bye-election within the said period. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- As per **Section 102 of the Representation of the People Act**, in case there is a tie between two candidates, the winner will be decided by a lot. This section says that once the lot is drawn, the result will be declared in favour of the winner as if the one who won the lot has received an additional vote. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

Q 64.B

- In order to avoid any complication and conflict of duty, the following limitations are placed on the Attorney General of India.
- He should not advise or hold a brief against the Government of India.
- He should not advise or hold a brief in cases in which he is called upon to advise or appear for the government of India.
- **He should not defend accused persons in criminal prosecutions without the permission of the Government of India. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- **He should not accept an appointment as a director in any company or corporation without the permission of the Government of India. Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- However, the Attorney General is not a full-time counsel for the Government. He does not fall in the category of government servants and **therefore he is not debarred from private legal practice and hence no permission is required. Hence statement 3 is not correct.**

Q 65.C

- The FPTP is a fairly simple electoral system where the winning candidate from a constituency need not secure more than 50% of the total votes polled to claim popular support, but only enough votes (relative majority) to push their opponents behind. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- India suffers from all the negative implications emerging from the adoption of the FPTP, such as-
  - Analysing all general elections from 1952 to 2019, no government at the centre had crossed the 50% mark to claim the absolute majority of the voters to claim popular support. Due to this political parties have resorted to consolidating certain vote banks at the cost of completely alienating other groups, which they see as impediments to their electoral success.
  - In this system, larger political parties are over-rewarded with more seats as compared to vote share and smaller political parties are under-rewarded.
  - In case of multi-cornered contest, the majority of the voters may go unrepresented and the elected member may represent only a minority of voters.
- In any of the general elections from 1952 to 2019, no government at the centre had crossed the 50% mark to claim the absolute majority of the voters to claim popular support. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

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Q 66.A

- The 61st Constitutional Amendment Act (CAA), 1988 reduced the voting age from 21 years to 18 years for the Lok Sabha as well as the assembly elections. **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**
- The 69th CAA, 1991, states that there shall be a Legislative Assembly for the National Capital Territory of Delhi and the seats in such Assembly shall be filled by members chosen by direct election from territorial constituencies in the National Capital Territory. **Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.**
- 84th CAA, 2001 provided for the readjustment according to the 1991 census figures. The 87th CAA, 2003, provided for the readjustment and rationalisation of territorial constituencies in the states on the basis of the population figures of 2001 census. **Hence, pair 3 is not correctly matched.**

Q 67.A

- The governor of a state shall, after every five years, constitute a finance commission to review the financial position of the panchayats. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- It shall make the following recommendations to the Governor:
  - The principles that should govern:
    - The distribution between the state and the panchayats of the net proceeds of the taxes, duties, tolls, and fees levied by the state and allocation of shares amongst the panchayats at all levels.
    - The determination of taxes, duties, tolls, and fees that may be assigned to the panchayats.
    - The grants-in-aid to the panchayats from the consolidated fund of the state.
  - The measures needed to improve the financial position of the panchayats.
  - Any other matter referred to it by the governor in the interests of sound finance of the panchayats.
- The state legislature may provide for the composition of the commission, the required qualifications of its members, and the manner of their selection. The governor shall place the recommendations of the commission along with the action taken report before the state legislature. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**

Q 68.A

- The **Central Information Commission** has been constituted with effect from 12-10-2005 **under the Right to Information Act, 2005 under an official gazette notification. It is not a constitutional body.** The jurisdiction of the Commission extends over all Central Public Authorities. **Hence statement 2 is not correct**
- **Central Information Commission may impose a penalty on the CPIO(Central Public Information Officer)** if this Commission is of the opinion that the CPIO has, without any reasonable cause, refused to receive an application for information or has not furnished information within the time specified or malafidely denied the request for information or knowingly given incorrect, incomplete or misleading information or destroyed information which was the subject of the request or obstructed in any manner in furnishing the information, it shall impose a penalty of two hundred and fifty rupees each day till the application is received or information is furnished, so, however, the total amount of such penalty shall not exceed twenty-five thousand rupees. **Hence statement 1 is correct**
- **Power and Functions of CIC:**
  - To receive and inquire into a complaint from any person regarding information requested under RTI, 2005.
  - **Where the Central Information Commission or State Information Commission, as the case may be, is satisfied that there are reasonable grounds to inquire into the matter, it may initiate an inquiry suo moto in respect thereof. Hence statement 3 is correct.**
  - While inquiring, the Commission has the powers of a civil court in respect of summoning, requiring documents etc.

Q 69.B

- An EVM can be used to record a **maximum of 2,000 votes**. If an EVM stops working it is replaced with a new one and votes recorded until that time are safe in the memory of the control unit. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Section 61A of Representation of People Act, 1951, (Voting machines at elections) states that the giving and recording of votes by voting machines in such manner as may be prescribed by the Election Commission. Here a "voting machine" means any machine or apparatus whether operated electronically or otherwise used for giving or recording of votes. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Only two government PSUs i.e. **Bharat Electronics Limited and Electronics Corporation of India Limited** can manufacture EVMs and VVPATs. Also, in case of any issue with either the EVM or VVPAT machines only engineers from Bharat Electronics Limited and Electronics Corporation of India Limited can conduct checking. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

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Q 70.B

- The Original act states that the salary of the CIC and ICs (at the central level) will be equivalent to the salary paid to the Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners, respectively.
- Similarly, the salary of the CIC and ICs (at the state level) will be equivalent to the salary paid to the Election Commissioners and the Chief Secretary to the state government, respectively.
- The **Right to Information (Amendment) Act, 2019 Act** seeks to amend these provisions to state that the salaries, allowances, and other terms and conditions of service of the central and state CIC and ICs will be **determined by the central government. Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- Under the Original Act, Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) and Information Commissioners (ICs) are appointed at the national and state level to implement the provisions of the Act.
- The Act states that the CIC and other ICs (appointed at the central and state level) will hold office for a term of five years.
- The Amendment Act removes this provision and states that the **central government will notify the term of office for the CIC and the ICs**. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

Q 71.C

- The Foreigners Tribunal is a quasi-judicial body created through an executive order namely- **Foreigners Tribunal Order**, **1964 under Section 3 the Foreigners Act, 1946.** When referred by the Central/State Government /District Magistrate, foreigner tribunals decide on matters related to:
  - Whether a person is a foreigner within the meaning of Foreigners Act, 1946.
  - Whether a person of Indian origin complies with the requirements under Clause 6A (Assam Accord) of the Citizenship Act, 1955.
- Foreigners Tribunals can **regulate their own procedure**.
- They have **powers equivalent to that of a Civil Court.**
- They can summon and enforce the attendance of any person and can also examine them under oath.
- Foreigners Tribunals have been created in Assam to hear appeals of people who are excluded from the final National Register of Citizens (NRC).
- The judgments of these tribunals can be challenged in higher courts.
- **The power to declare a person as foreigner lies with these tribunals only**. Therefore, fair functioning of these bodies is very essential. However, following issues have been observed:
  - **These tribunals have been created through an executive order. This is in violation of Article 323B of Indian Constitution, which requires that only the Legislature through law can provide for adjudication of matters by tribunal. Hence option (c) is the correct answer.**
  - **The MHA has amended the Foreigners (Tribunals) Order, 1964, and has empowered district magistrates in all States and Union Territories to set up tribunals to decide whether a person staying illegally in India is a foreigner or not. Earlier, the powers to constitute tribunals were vested only with the Centre**.
  - Amendment order also empowers individuals to approach the Tribunals. Earlier only the State administration could move the Tribunal against a suspect.

Q 72.A

- Recently, Union finance minister launched the **Ubharte Sitaare Fund (USF)** for **export-oriented small and mid-sized companies and startups. Union Finance Minister had announced the fund in her Budget speech i**n 2020 in the backdrop of constraints faced by small and mid-sized companies in realising their export ambitions, stating that micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) were important to keep the "wheels of the economy moving". The fund will **invest by way of equity, and equity-like products,** in export-oriented units, both in the manufacturing and services sectors. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- The fund, jointly sponsored by **Exim Bank and SIDBI.** The Fund has a **size of Rs 250 crore with a green shoe option of Rs 250 crore.** The fund is a mix of structured support, both financial and advisory services through investments in equity or equity like instruments, debt (funded and non-funded) and technical assistance (advisory services, grants and soft loans) to the Indian companies. **Hence statement 1 is correct and statement 3 is not correct.**

Q 73.D

- **National e-Governance Plan** aims to make all Public Services accessible to the common man in his locality, through common service delivery outlets and ensure efficiency, transparency, and reliability of such services at affordable costs to realize the basic needs of the common man.
- **NeGP has a three-tier architecture.**

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- The **Common Service Centres (CSCs)** are the front-end delivery points for a range of citizen services. These centers also provide employment to the entrepreneurs running them, besides being useful in rolling out all kinds of government schemes such as those for financial inclusion, enumeration of data, insurance, and IT education
- The **second tier** is of the common and support infrastructure that can allow information to be shared electronically between different agencies of the government and with citizens. Included in it, is the **State Wide Area Networks (SWANs)**, which form the converged backbone network for data, voice, and video throughout a state / UT, and the State Data Centers (SDCs) which can provide common secure IT infrastructure to host state-level e-government applications and data.
- The **third tier** comprises the **Mission Mode Projects (MMPs)** which will transform high-priority citizen services from their current manual delivery into e-delivery.
- **Hence option (d) is the correct answer.**

Q 74.D

- **Common Services Centre (CSC) program** is an initiative of the **Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY), Government of India.**
- CSCs are the access points for the delivery of various electronic services to villages in India, thereby contributing to a digitally and financially inclusive society. **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- **CSC e-Governance Services India Limited** is a **Special Purpose Vehicle incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956** by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India, to monitor the implementation of the Common Services Centers Scheme. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
- It provides a centralized collaborative framework for the delivery of services to citizens through CSCs, besides ensuring systemic viability and sustainability of the scheme.

Q 75.C

- **The 52nd Constitutional Amendment Act of 1985 provided for the disqualification of the members of Parliament and the state legislatures on the ground of Deflection** of one political party to another. The 10th Schedule of the Indian Constitution is designed to prevent political defections prompted by the lure of office or material benefits or other like considerations. The Anti-defection law was passed by Parliament in 1985 and was reinforced in 2002. **Hence pair 1 is correctly matched.**
- On 9 January 2019, the Parliament of India enacted the **Constitution (One Hundred and Third Amendment) Act, 2019/ 103rd Constitutional Amendment Act,** which enabled the State to **make reservations in higher education and matters of public employment on the basis of economic criteria alone.** The Act amended Articles 15 and 16 of the Constitution by inserting 15(6) and 16(6). It received presidential assent on 12 January 2019 and was published in the Gazette on the same day. **Hence pair 2 is not correctly matched.**
- **India's National Commission for Backward Classes is a constitutional body under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, established on 14 August 1993. It was granted constitutional status through the 102nd Constitutional Amendment Act 2018.**
- **1st Constitutional Amendment Act** empowered the state to make special provisions for the advancement of socially and economically backward classes. It provided that state trading and nationalization of any trade or business by the state is not to be invalid on the ground of violation of the right to trade or business. The **amendment added Ninth Schedule to protect the land reforms and other laws included in it from the judicial review.** The Schedule contains a list of central and state laws which cannot be challenged in courts. the objective was also to meet the constitutional goal of establishing an egalitarian society and to reduce the concentration of land in few hands by dividing it into the farmers. **Hence pair 3 is correctly matched**

Q 76.A

- **Sikkim** became the **22nd State of India Vide Constitution(36th Amendment) Act 1975.** In 1950 the kingdom became a protectorate of the Government of India vested with autonomy in its internal affairs while its defense, communications, and external relation were under the responsibility of the protector. The kingdom finally opted to become a full-fledged State of the Indian Union with effect from 26 April 1975 vide the Constitution 36th Amendment Act 1975 with special provision laid for the State under article 371(F) of the Constitution of India.
- **Privy purses**, in proportion to the size of the revenue of former princely states, had been granted to the royals at the time of Independence as a quid pro quo for the surrender of their ruling powers and dissolution of their states. The payments of 'privy purse' were made to the former rulers under

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constitutional provisions of Art. 291 and Art. 362. However, it was often questioned as a relic of the colonial past. Therefore, the then Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi, argued the case for the abolition of the privy purse. So, **by the 26th Amendment to the Constitution of India in 1971, 'privy purse' was abolished. The amendment leads to the omission of Articles 291 and 362.**

- In **1979, the Morarji Desai government established the Mandal Commission to identify socially or educationally backward classes to address caste discrimination.** It was chaired by B.P. Mandal, who was once the Bihar chief minister. The Commission recommended that members of OBCs be given 27 percent reservations for jobs under the Central government and public sector undertakings. This would take the total number of reservations for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to 49 percent.
- **Hence option (a) is the correct answer(3-1-2).**

Q 77.C

- **Statement 1 is correct:** In order to strengthen the regulatory framework and the settlement of the disputes mechanism in the telecommunication sector, the Telecom Disputes Settlement Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) was established by amendment under the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) Act, 1997 in 2000. It was set up to adjudicate disputes and dispose of appeals with a view to protecting the interests of service providers and consumers of the telecom sector and to promote the growth of the telecom sector by bringing functional clarity.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The composition of TDSAT comprises a Chairperson and two Members appointed by the Central Government. **The Chairperson should be or should have been a Judge of the Supreme Court or the Chief Justice of a High Court**. A person who has held the post of Secretary to the Government of India or any equivalent post in the Central Government or the State Government for a period of not less than two years or a person who is well versed in the field of technology, telecommunication, industry, commerce or administration is qualified to be its member.

Q 78.B

- **Recent Context: Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)** has secured Patent registration for its innovative Plastic-mixed Handmade Paper developed to reduce plastic menace from nature. **The plastic-mixed handmade paper was developed under Project REPLAN (REducing PLAstic from Nature).**
- **It is a unique project under which plastic waste is de-structured, degraded, diluted and used with paper pulp while making handmade paper and thus reduces plastic waste from nature.** The production of waste-plastic mixed handmade paper is likely to serve the twin objectives of protecting the environment alongside creating sustainable employment.
- The technology developed by KVIC uses both high & low density waste polythene that not only adds extra strength to the paper but also reduces the cost by up to 34%. The product is recyclable and eco-friendly. KVIC has developed products such as carry bags, envelopes, files/folders, etc. using plastic mixed handmade paper.
- Nearly 2640 handmade paper making units in the country under KVIC and State Khadi Boards have the potential of clearing approx 3000 MT of waste plastic from nature every year. At the same time, it can also create thousands of new jobs like a collection of waste plastic, cleaning and processing.
- **Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.**

Q 79.C

- An election petition is not an ordinary civil suit**,** but treated as a contest in which the whole constituency is involved. Election petitions are tried by the High Court of the state involved. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- An Election Petition has to be filed within 45 days from the declaration of the results of the State Assembly elections either by a candidate or a voter in the concerned constituency of the State. Other than these persons, no one can approach a High Court with an election petition. Voter is a person who was entitled to vote at the election to which the election petition relates. Whether he has voted at such election or not is immaterial. (Sec 81(1) explanation of RPA). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- According to the Sec 117 RPA, the cost for filing an Election Petition is Rs. 2000/= in accordance with rules of the concerned High Court.

Q 80.A

- The Parliament enacted the Official Language Act in 1963. The act provides for the continued use of English (even after 1965), in addition to Hindi, for all official purposes of the Union and also for the

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transaction of business in Parliament. Notably, this act enables the use of **English indefinitely** (without any time-limit)**. Hence statement 2 is correct.**

- The Official Language Act of 1963 lays down that **Hindi translation** of acts, ordinances, orders, regulations and bye-laws published under the authority of the president are deemed to be authoritative texts.
  - Every bill introduced in the Parliament is to be accompanied by a Hindi translation**. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
  - The English should be used for purposes of communication between the Union and the non- Hindi states (that is, the states that have not adopted Hindi as their official language). **Hence statement 3 is correct**.
  - Where Hindi is used for communication between a Hindi and a non-Hindi state, such communication in Hindi should be accompanied by an English translation.
- This act was amended in 1967 to make the use of English, in addition to Hindi, compulsory in certain cases. These include:
  - resolutions, general orders, rules, notifications, administrative or other reports or press communications issued by the Central government;
  - administrative and other reports and official papers laid before Parliament; and
  - contracts and agreements executed, licences, permits, notices, etc, issued by the Central government or by a corporation or a company owned by the Central government.

Q 81.B

- **Recent Context: Oxfam released a new report, titled "Tightening the Net". Hence statement 2 is correct.**
  - **The report provides an analysis of the 'net zero' carbon targets that many countries have announced to fight climate change.** According to the report, the 'net zero' target may be a "dangerous distraction" from the priority of cutting carbon emissions. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The report is critical of the governments and companies that are adopting 'net zero' climate targets, as it is without a clear definition.
  - It also asserts that these targets risk being reliant on using vast swathes of land in low-income countries to capture carbon emissions, allowing the biggest emitters to avoid making significant cuts in their own emissions.
  - The report cautions that 'net zero' should be a pathway to real and transformative climate action and not greenwash. Carbon emissions need to be reduced now, and land-based climate solutions must centre 'food-first' approaches that help achieve both zero emissions and zero hunger.

Q 82.D

- **e-Governance** is about reform in governance, facilitated by the creative use of Information and Communications Technology (ICT).
- It will lead to **better access to information and quality services for citizens. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- ICT would make available timely and reliable information on various aspects of governance.
- The ultimate objective of e-Governance is to reach out to citizens by adopting a life-cycle approach that is providing public services to citizens which would be required right from birth to death.
- It will provide **simplicity, efficiency, and accountability in the government. Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- Application of ICT to governance combined with detailed business process reengineering would lead to simplification of complicated processes, weeding out of redundant processes, simplification in structures, and changes in statutes and regulations. The end result would be a simplification of the functioning of government, enhanced decision-making abilities, and increased efficiency across government – all contributing to an overall environment of the more accountable government machinery. This, in turn, would result in enhanced productivity and efficiency in all sectors.
- The rapid growth of communications technology and its adoption in governance would help in **bringing government machinery to the doorsteps of the citizens**. Expansion of telephone networks, rapid strides in mobile telephony, the spread of the internet, and strengthening of other communications infrastructure would facilitate the delivery of a large number of services provided by the government. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**

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Q 83.C

- **e-RUPI** is basically **a digital voucher** which a beneficiary gets on his phone in the form of an **SMS or QR code.** It is a pre-paid voucher, which he/she can go and redeem it at any centre that accepts its. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- For example, if the Government wants to cover a particular treatment of an employee in a specified hospital, it can issue an e-RUPI voucher for the determined amount through a partner bank. The employee will receive an SMS or a QR Code on his feature phone / smart phone. He/she can go to the specified hospital, avail of the services and pay through the e-RUPI voucher received on his phone.
- Thus e-RUPI is a one time **contactless, cashless voucher**-based mode of payment that helps users redeem the voucher **without a card, digital payments app, or internet banking access.** e-RUPI **does not require the beneficiary to have a bank account**, a major distinguishing feature as compared to other digital payment forms. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
- It ensures an easy, contactless **two-step redemption** process that does not require sharing of personal details either. Another advantage is that e-RUPI is operable on **basic phones** also, and hence it can be used by persons who do not own smart-phones or in places that lack internet connection. e-RUPI is expected to play a major role in strengthening **Direct-Benefit Transfer** and making it more transparent.
- The **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI),** which oversees the digital payments ecosystem in India, has **launched e-RUPI,** a voucher-based payments system to promote cashless transactions. It has been developed in collaboration with the Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and National Health Authority. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**

Q 84.B

- **Data Security Council of India (DSCI)** is committed to establishing best practices, standards, and initiatives in cybersecurity and privacy to make cyberspace safe, secure, and trusted. It engages with the governments and their agencies to further its objectives. It also engages with regulators, industry sectors, industry associations, and thinks tanks, etc. for policy advocacy in cyberspace security.
- **Statement 1 is not correct:** Data Security Council of India (DSCI), is a not-for-profit, industry body on data protection in India, set up by the **National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM).**
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Various objectives of DSCI aim to strengthen the security and privacy culture in India. It is achieved through strengthening thought leadership in cybersecurity and privacy, developing best practices and frameworks in security, privacy, and cyber forensics, etc. It also **endeavors to increase India's share in the global security product and services market through global trade development initiatives.**
- **Statement 3 is correct:** It includes stakeholders from Industries and Academia to strengthen the security and privacy culture.

Q 85.C

- The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) who is the head of the Supreme Audit Institution of India (SAI India) discharges his constitutional functions through the Indian Audit and Accounts Department.
- **Article 149 of the Constitution** of India envisages that CAG shall perform such duties and exercise such powers in relation to the accounts of the Union and of the States and of any other authority or body as may be prescribed by or under any law made by Parliament.
- The general provisions relating to audit are elaborated in Sections 13 to 21 and 24 of the DPC Act. There are also other legislations providing for the audit of specific entities by the CAG.
- **The audit mandate of CAG** extends to bodies or authorities such as statutory corporations, government companies, autonomous bodies constituted as societies, trusts or not-for-profit companies, urban and rural local bodies, and also to any other body or authority whose audit may be entrusted to CAG under law.
- To fulfill its mandate, SAI India undertakes **financial audits, compliance audits, performance audits, and a combination of such audits.**
- **Financial Audit-**
- The purpose of an audit of financial statements is to enhance the degree of confidence of intended users in the financial statements. This is achieved through the expression of an opinion by the auditor as to whether the financial statements are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with an applicable financial reporting framework, or – in the case of financial statements prepared in accordance with a fair presentation financial reporting framework – whether the financial statements are presented fairly, in all material respects, or give a true and fair view, in accordance with that framework.

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- A complete set of financial statements for a public sector entity prepared in accordance with such a financial reporting framework normally consists of
  - statement of financial position;
  - statement of financial performance;
  - statement of changes in net assets/equity
  - cash flow statement;
  - **comparison of budget and actual amounts – either as a separate additional financial statement or as a reconciliation; Hence pair 2 is correctly matched**
  - notes, comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.
  - in certain environments a complete set of financial statements may also include other reports, such as reports on performance and appropriation reports.
- **Performance audit** is an independent, objective, and reliable examination of whether public sector undertakings, systems, operations, programmes, activities, or organizations are operating in accordance with the principles of **economy, efficiency, and effectiveness.**
- The main objective of a performance audit is to constructively **promote economical, effective, and efficient governance. Hence pair 3 is not correctly matched**
- It also contributes to **accountability and transparency**. Performance audit promotes accountability by assisting those charged with governance and oversight responsibilities to improve performance through an examination of whether:
  - decisions by the legislature or the executive are efficiently and effectively prepared and implemented and
  - taxpayers or citizens have received value for money.
- **A compliance audit** is an independent assessment of whether a given subject matter is in compliance with applicable authorities identified as criteria. Compliance audits are carried out by assessing whether activities, financial transactions, and information comply in all material respects, with the authorities which govern the audited entity. Compliance auditing may be concerned with
  - **Regularity** - adherence of the subject matter to the formal criteria emanating from relevant laws, regulations, and agreements applicable to the entity
  - **Propriety** - observance of the general principles governing sound financial management and the ethical conduct of public officials.
- **Hence pair 1 is not correctly matched**
- While regularity is the main focus of compliance auditing, propriety is equally pertinent in the public-sector context, in which there are certain expectations concerning financial management and the conduct of officials.

Q 86.B

- **Recent Context:** The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has launched a loan interest subvention scheme to provide financial assistance for innovative waste to energy biomethanation projects. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **Biomethanation or anaerobic digestion** consists of the degradation, in the absence of oxygen, of miscellaneous organic matter leading, among other factors, to the production of methane (CH4). This is recovered in the form of heat and/or electricity.
- The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has launched a loan interest subvention scheme in association with United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and Global Environment Facility (GEF). **Funded by the GEF fund, the loan interest subvention scheme will provide financial assistance to innovative waste to energy biomethanation projects and business models. Hence statements 1 and 3 are correct.**
- Innovations in such projects seek to improve overall energy output thereby minimizing the cost of energy generation but may lead to an increase in the initial project cost at the establishment stage yet increase revenue and reduce operating costs over the project's lifetime. The loan scheme provides financial assistance to beneficiaries to reduce the financial burden on account of interest on the loan component faced by such demonstration projects.

Q 87.B

- The Government has granted enhanced powers to the Boards of the profit-making enterprises under various schemes like Maharatna, Navratna and Miniratna.
- The main objective of the Maharatna scheme which was introduced in 2010 is to empower mega CPSEs to expand their operations and emerge as global giants. The Maharatna Scheme empowers big-sized CPSEs to expand their operations and emerge as global giants.

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- Eligibility Criteria for grant of Maharatna status:
  - Having Navratna status
  - Listed on Indian stock exchange with minimum prescribed public shareholding under SEBI regulations
  - **An average annual turnover of more than Rs. 25,000 crore during the last 3 years**
    - **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - An average annual net worth of more than Rs. 15,000 crore during the last 3 years
  - An average annual net profit after tax of more than Rs. 5,000 crore during the last 3 years
  - **Should have significant global presence/ international operations**
  - **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **There is no such criterion for a CPSE to pay dividends regularly to be eligible for a Maharatna status.**
  - **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- **Powers delegated to Maharatna CPSEs:**
  - The Boards of Maharatna CPSEs in addition to exercising all powers to Navratna CPSEs also exercise enhanced powers in the area of investment in joint ventures/subsidiaries and creation of below Board level posts.
- **Maharatna CPSEs**
  - Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited
  - Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited
  - Coal India Limited GAIL (India) Limited
  - Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited
  - Indian Oil Corporation Limited
  - NTPC Limited
  - Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited
  - Power Grid Corporation of India Limited
  - Steel Authority of India Limited

Q 88.D

- National Commission for Scheduled Tribe is a constitutional body established directly by **article 338-A of the constitution**.
- The commission is vested with the powers to regulate its own procedure. The Commission while investigating any matter or inquiring into any complaint, has all the powers of the civil court trying a suit and in particular in respect to the following matters:
  - **summoning or enforcing the attendance of any person from any part of India and examining him on oath. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
  - **Requiring the discovery and production of any document. Hence statement 3 is correct.**
  - **Receiving evidence on affidavits. Hence statement 2 is correct.**
  - **requisitioning any public record from any court or office. Hence statement 4 is correct.**
  - Issuing summons for the examination of witnesses and documents
  - any other matter, which the President may determine.
- The central government and the state government are required to consult the Commission on all major policies affecting the STs.

Q 89.C

- The Representation of People Act has been amended to exempt parties to inform EC of any **amount received above Rs 2,000** if made through electoral bonds. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The amended Companies Act allows any foreign company registered in India to make contributions through bonds to political parties. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The electoral bonds are sold in multiples of Rs 1,000, Rs 10,000, Rs 1 lakh, Rs 10 lakh, and Rs 1 crore, and the State Bank of India (SBI) is the only bank authorized to sell them. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Q 90.C

- Under the Constitution of India Article 165 has provided for the office of the advocate general for the states. He is the highest law officer in the state. Thus he corresponds to the Attorney General of India.
- **The advocate general is appointed by the governor. He must be a person who is qualified to be appointed a judge of a high court.** In other words, he must be a citizen of India and must have held a judicial office for ten years or been an advocate of a high court for ten years.

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- **The term of office of the advocate general is not fixed by the Constitution. Hence option (c) is the correct answer.**
- Further, **the Constitution does not contain the procedure and grounds for his removal.** He holds office during the pleasure of the governor. This means that he may be removed by the governor at any time.
- **He may also quit his office by submitting his resignation to the Governor**. Conventionally, he resigns when the government (council of ministers) resigns or is replaced, as he is appointed on its advice.
- The remuneration of the advocate general is not fixed by the Constitution. He receives such remuneration as the Governor may determine.
- Articles Related to Advocate-General of the state under the constitution of India:
  - **Article 165:** Advocate-General of the State.
  - **Article 177:** Rights of Advocate-General as respects the Houses of State Legislature and its Committee.
  - **Article 194:** Powers, privileges, and immunities of Advocate General.

Q 91.D

- **Recent Context: Scientists developed non-invasive bio-nanocarrier visceral leishmaniasis therapy. They developed a smart and intelligent nanocarrier utilising the natural intrinsic Vitamin B12 pathway present in human body that can mitigate stability challenges and drug-associated toxicity.**
  - The conventional treatment therapy of VL mainly involves painful intravenous administration, which imposes many treatment complications, including prolonged hospitalisation, high cost, and high risk of infection.
- **Kala Azar,** also known as Visceral leishmaniasis, Black fever, and Dumdum fever, is the **most severe form of leishmaniasis and, without proper diagnosis and treatment, is associated with high fatality. Hence statement 3 is correct.**
  - **Leishmaniasis is a disease caused by protozoan parasites of the Leishmania genus. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
  - It is a vector-borne disease and transmitted through sand flies.
  - **The parasite migrates to the internal organs such as the liver, spleen (hence 'visceral'), and bone marrow,** and, if left untreated, will almost always result in the death of the host.
  - Signs and symptoms include fever, weight loss, fatigue, anemia, and substantial swelling of the liver and spleen.
  - It is endemic to the Indian subcontinent spanning over 119 districts in the countries of Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and India. India accounts for half the global burden of the disease.
  - It is endemic to a contiguous block of districts spanning West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand and eastern Uttar Pradesh.
- **Related Information:** There are 3 main forms of leishmaniases – visceral (also known as kala-azar, which is and the most serious form of the disease), cutaneous (the most common), and mucocutaneous.
  - **Cutaneous leishmaniasis (CL) is the most common form of leishmaniasis** and causes skin lesions, mainly ulcers, on exposed parts of the body, leaving life-long scars and serious disability or stigma. About 95% of CL cases occur in the Americas, the Mediterranean basin, the Middle East and Central Asia. In 2018 over 85% of new CL cases occurred in 10 countries: Afghanistan, Algeria, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Pakistan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Tunisia. It is estimated that between 600 000 to 1 million new cases occur worldwide annually.
  - **Mucocutaneous leishmaniasis leads to partial or total destruction of mucous membranes of the nose, mouth and throat**. Over 90% of mucocutaneous leishmaniasis cases occur in Bolivia (the Plurinational State of), Brazil, Ethiopia and Peru.

Q 92.A

- Recently the Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment launched 'PM-DAKSH' Portal and 'PM-DAKSH' Mobile App. **PM-DAKSH portal** was developed by the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**, in collaboration with **National e-Governance Division** to make the skill development schemes accessible to the target groups. Through these portal and app the youth of the target groups will now be able to avail the benefits of skill development training programmes more easily.
- Some of the features of this portal are as follows:
  - Availability of all information related to skill development at one place for Scheduled Castes, Backward Classes and Safai Karamcharis.
  - Facility to **register for the training institute** and program of their interest.
- **Hence option (a) is the correct answer.**

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Q 93.B

- **Lokpal** is a multi-member body, that consists of one chairperson and a maximum of 8 members. The members are appointed by the president on the recommendation of a Selection Committee. The selection committee is composed of the Prime Minister who is the Chairperson; Speaker of Lok Sabha, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, Chief Justice of India or a Judge nominated by him/her, and One eminent jurist. The term of office for Lokpal Chairman and Members is 5 years or till the age of 70 years. **Hence pair 3 is correctly matched**
- The **State Information Commission (SIC)** is a quasi-judicial body. Right to Information Act provides provisions for the creation of the State Information Commission. The Commission consists of a State Chief Information Commissioner and not more than ten State Information Commissioners. They are **appointed by the Governor on the recommendation of a committee consisting of the Chief Minister as Chairperson, the Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Assembly, and a State Cabinet Minister nominated by the Chief Minister.** They hold office till the age of 65 or 5 years. The information commissioner is eligible for the post of state chief information commissioner but can be in office for a maximum of 5 years including his tenure as information commissioner. **Hence pair 1 is correctly matched.**
- The Indian government introduced the **Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)** in the year 1964. The commission was set up on the recommendation of the K. Santhanam Committee on Prevention of Corruption. It was originally introduced through an executive resolution. The Central Vigilance Committee's role is to advise and guide the Central Government in the field of surveillance.
  CVC has three members:
  - Central Vigilance Commissioner
  - Two Vigilance Commissioner (Maximum number of commissioners is 2)
- **President of India appoints CVC members by warrant under his hand and seal.** The President's appointment comes after the recommendation by a three-member committee:
  - Prime Minister
  - Minister of Home Affairs (MHA)
  - Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha **Hence pair 2 is not correctly matched**

Q 94.B

- The National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions was set up in 2004. The Government brought out an Ordinance in November 2004 establishing the Commission. Later a bill was introduced in the Parliament in December 2004 and both Houses passed the Bill. The NCMEI Act was notified in January 2005. Under the Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for Welfare of Minorities, there will be definite goals that are to be achieved in the specific time frame. On high priority is enhancing opportunity for education.
- The Commission is mandated to look into specific complaints regarding deprivation or violation of rights of minorities to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice. Protection of rights of minorities is enshrined in Article 30 of the Constitution which states that "all minorities, whether based on religion or language shall have the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice".
- This Commission is a quasi-judicial body and has been endowed with the powers of a Civil Court. **It is to be headed by a Chairman who has been a Judge of the High Court** and three members are to be nominated by Central Government. The Commission has 3 roles namely adjudicatory function, advisory function, and recommendatory powers. **Hence statement 1 is not correct**
- So **far as affiliation of a minority educational institution to a university is concerned, the decision of the Commission would be final.** In case of a dispute with respect to the affiliation of a minority institution, the decision of the Commission is final. **Hence statement 2 is correct**

Q 95.C

- The Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) was set up in 1985 with the principal bench at Delhi and additional benches in different states.
  - At present, it has 17 regular benches, 15 of which operate at the principal seats of high courts and the remaining two at Jaipur and Lucknow. These benches also hold circuit sittings at other seats of high courts.
- **The CAT exercises original jurisdiction in relation to recruitment and all service matters of public servants covered by it. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- Its jurisdiction extends to the all-India services, the Central civil services, civil posts under the Centre and civilian employees of defence services.

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- **The members of the defence forces, officers and servants of the Supreme Court and the secretarial staff of the Parliament are not covered by it. Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- The CAT is a multi-member body consisting of a chairman and members.
  - The members have been given the status of judges of High Courts.
  - They are drawn from both judicial and administrative streams and are appointed by the president.
  - They hold office for a term of five years or until they attain the age of 65 years, in case of chairman and 62 years in case of members, whichever is earlier.
  - The appointment of Members in CAT is made on the basis of recommendations of a high powered selection committee chaired by a Sitting Judge of Supreme Court who is nominated by the Chief Justice of India.
- **The CAT is not bound by the procedure laid down in the Civil Procedure Code of 1908. It is guided by the principles of natural justice. Hence statement 3 is correct.**

Q 96.C

- The Constitution visualizes the UPSC to be the watchdog of the merit system in India.
- It is concerned with the **recruitment to the All India Services and Central Services- Group A and Group B and advises the government, when consulted, on promotion and disciplinary matters. Hence option 1 is correct.**
- It is not concerned with the **classification of services, pay and service conditions, cadre management, training, and so on. Hence options 2 and 3 are not correct.**
- These matters are handled by the **Department of Personnel and Training** – one of the three departments of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.
- Therefore, UPSC is only a central recruiting agency while the Department of Personnel and Training is the central personnel agency in India.

Q 97.B

- **National Institution for Transforming India, also known as NITI Aayog, was formed via an executive resolution of the Union Cabinet on 1 January 2015. It is a non-statutory and an extra-constitutional body.** It is the premier policy think tank of the Government of India, providing directional and policy inputs. Apart from designing strategic and long-term policies and programs for the Government of India, NITI Aayog also provides relevant technical advice to the Centre, States, and Union Territories. **Hence statement 1 is not correct**
- **The Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO) is an attached office of NITI Aayog**. Constituted in September 2015 by merging the erstwhile Program Evaluation Office (PEO) and the Independent Evaluation Office (IEO), DMEO works to fulfill the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) mandate and to build the M&E ecosystem in India. **Hence statement 3 is correct**
- The **Governing Council of NITI Aayog is chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister** and comprises Chief Ministers of all the States and Union Territories with legislatures and Lt Governors of other Union Territories. **Hence statement 2 is not correct**
- Regional Councils will be created to address particular issues and possibilities affecting more than one state. These will be formed for a fixed term. It will be summoned by the Prime Minister. It will consist of the Chief Ministers of States and Lt. Governors of Union Territories. These will be chaired by the Chairperson of the NITI Aayog or his nominee.
- The full-time organizational framework will include, in addition to the Prime Minister as the Chairperson: Vice-Chairperson (appointed by the Prime Minister)
  - Members: Full-time (They enjoy the rank of Ministers of State)
  - Chief Executive Officer: The CEO will be appointed by the Prime Minister for a fixed tenure. He will be in the rank of Secretary to the Government of India.
  - Ex Officio members: Maximum of 4 members of the Council of Ministers which is to be nominated by the Prime Minister.
  - Part-time members: Maximum of 2 members from foremost universities, leading research organizations, and other innovative organizations in an ex-officio capacity. Part-time members will be on a rotational basis.

Q 98.A

- **The doctrine of eminent domain is pertaining to the power of the sovereign to acquire property of an individual for public use without the necessity of his/her consent. Hence option (a) is the correct answer.**
- There are two essential ingredients of this doctrine:

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  - **Property is taken for public use and**
  - **Compensation is paid for the property taken.**
- It is based on two maxims-
  - the welfare of the people is the paramount law and
  - public necessity is greater than private necessity.
- The doctrine has been implicit in the evolution of Right to property under the Indian constitution. Originally, the constitution of India did not follow this doctrine in completeness due to the fundamental right to property guaranteed under Article 19 (1)(f) and Article 31. As a result, the state was unable to effectively regulate the properties as laid down in the doctrine. The state passed various legislations including the land reforms, towards its welfare objectives. However, its implementation led to various issues in terms of scope of eminent domain and its limitations. The main points of contention were objectively identifying the public interest and obligation of state to pay compensation for regulating private property. This led to confrontation as well as debate on the "eminent domain" and suitability of Article 19(1) (f) under it.
  - The Parliament wanted to remove the latter article, whereas there were a lot of litigations against such a move. It was clarified by the Supreme Court in **Chiranjit Lal v. Union of India (1950)** where it held that eminent domain is a right inherent in every sovereign to take and appropriate private property belonging to individual citizens.
  - As a result, after various Constitutional amendments, the 44th Amendment Act replaced the nature of right to property from fundamental right to constitutional right under Article 300A. The application of the doctrine of eminent domain was diluted in the following ways-
    - Property could be regulated without constitutional amendment, by an ordinary law of the Parliament.
    - An aggrieved person cannot directly move the Supreme Court under Article 32, rather had to move the High Court under Article 226.
    - There was no guaranteed right to compensation in case of acquisition or requisition of private property of the state.
    - Only two cases where such guarantee is provided are
      - when the state acquires the property of a minority educational institution (Article 30) and
      - the land held by a person under his personal cultivation and the land is within the statutory ceiling limits (Article 31A).

Q 99.A

- Recently, the Consumer Protection Act, 2019 replacing the earlier 1986 Act came into force.
- **Major Provisions under the 2019 Act:**
  - **Creation of Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA)**
    - Its primary objective is to promote, protect and enforce the rights of consumers and will be assisted by a Director-General of Investigation which will look into cases and submit its report to the Authority.
  - It is empowered to:
    - Conduct investigations into violations of consumer rights and institute complaints/prosecution.
    - Order recall of unsafe goods and services.
    - Order discontinuance of unfair trade practices and misleading advertisements.
    - Impose penalties on manufacturers/endorsers/publishers of misleading advertisements.
    - File suo-motu cases on behalf of a class of customers, thereby initiating class action suits
- The Alternate Dispute Resolution mechanism
  - A complaint will be referred by a Consumer Commission for mediation, wherever the scope for early settlement exists and parties agree for it.
  - Mediation will be held in the Mediation Cells to be established under the aegis of the Consumer Commissions.
  - No appeal against settlement through mediation
- **Quasi-judicial bodies under the Act called Consumer Disputes Redressal Agencies to provide simple, speedy, and inexpensive redressal to the grievances of the consumers have been established at three levels:**
  - **District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission or District Commission**
  - **State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission or State Commission**
  - **National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission or National Commission.**
- **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Pecuniary Jurisdiction of commissions**

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  - **District Commission: Up to 1 crore**
  - **State Commission: 1 crore – 10 crores**
  - **National Commission: above 10 crores**
- **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Introduction of the concept of product liability:
  - A manufacturer or product service provider or product seller to be responsible to compensate for injury or damage caused by defective product or deficiency in services.
- **Punishment**
  - The Act provides for punishment by a competent court for the manufacture or sale of adulterant/spurious goods.
  - The court may, in case of the first conviction, suspend any license issued to the person for a period of up to two years, and in case of second or subsequent conviction, cancel the license.
- **The Act lists six consumer rights explicitly**
  - the right to be protected against the marketing of goods, products or services which are hazardous to life and property.
  - the right to be informed about the quality, quantity, potency, purity, standard, and price of goods, products, or services to protect the consumer against unfair trade practices.
  - the right to be assured, wherever possible, access to a variety of goods, products, or services at competitive prices.
  - the right to be heard and to be assured that consumer's interests will receive due consideration at appropriate fora.
  - the right to seek redressal against unfair trade practice or restrictive trade practices or unscrupulous exploitation of consumers;
  - the right to consumer awareness.
- There will be no fee for filing cases up to ₹5 lakh.
- The amount due to unidentifiable consumers will be credited to Consumer Welfare Fund (CWF).
- The State Commissions will furnish information to Central Government on a quarterly basis on vacancies, disposal, the pendency of cases, and other matters.
- It provides for Central Consumer Protection Council as an advisory body on consumer issues to be headed by the Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution with the Minister of State as Vice Chairperson and 34 other members from different fields. It will also have a Minister-incharge of consumer affairs from two States from each region- North, South, East, West, and NER.

Q 100.A

- Representation of People Act 1951 contains provisions relating to:
  - Qualifications and disqualifications for membership of Parliament and State Legislature.
  - Notification of general elections.
  - Registration of Political parties. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - Conduct of Elections
  - Free supply of certain material to candidates of recognized parties.
- The ECI (Election Commission of India) can register a party but the law does not confer any power on it to deregister any political party. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- A party seeking registration under the said section with the ECI has to submit an application to the Commission within a period of 30 days following the date of its formation as per guidelines prescribed by the ECI in exercise of the powers conferred by Article 324 of the Constitution of India and Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

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